

Braille Monitor



OCTOBER, 1986

VOICE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

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THE BRAILLE MONITOR

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National Federation of the Blind
1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

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**THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND IS NOT AN ORGANIZATION
SPEAKING FOR THE BLIND—IT IS THE BLIND SPEAKING FOR THEMSELVES**

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On Wednesday morning, July 2, 1986, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri, Marc Maurer was elected President of the National Federation of the Blind. It was a joyful occasion. President Jernigan stood at the podium and held high the hand of President-Elect Maurer for the world to see.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TAKES A HAND IN THE AIRLINE PROBLEM

Federation Efforts Bring Results

At 8:45 on Thursday morning, August 21, 1986, Elizabeth Dole—Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT)—filed for publication in the Federal Register a document of historic significance. The document (which appeared in the Federal Register for Friday, August 22, 1986, and which is reprinted in full as part of this article) is entitled: "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap—Air Travel." This action by the Department of Transportation results from the increasing expressions of discontent voiced by the nation's blind concerning the actions of the airlines.

The DOT document is a notice requesting comments about "airline practices and procedures affecting the travel of blind passengers." It is extremely likely that this request for public comment will be followed by new rules and regulations affecting the airlines. In view of the legislation now being considered by Congress (legislation which at this writing has already passed the Senate which would prohibit all air carriers from discriminating on the basis of handicap) and in view of the growing avalanche of complaints being filed by the blind with DOT and Congress, the review of airline practices affecting the blind will probably get closer scrutiny during the next ninety days than ever before in history. Furthermore, once the rules are made and the regulations issued, it will be difficult to get the matter reconsidered

for the foreseeable future. In short, the time is now, and our action must be decisive and reasoned. This is the greatest opportunity which we who are blind are likely to have during the next decade to reduce or eliminate the discriminatory treatment which we have been receiving from the airlines.

Of course, to the extent that we have opportunity we also have risk. The airlines (with all of their close contacts with the Federal Aviation Administration and all of their money and prestige) will be doing everything they can to get rules which will justify the things they have been doing. They will play on the public's fear of blindness and the myths that we are helpless and incompetent, and they will do it in the name of safety.

Despite the fact that there has never been a single accident involving a blind passenger during the entire history of air travel, the airlines will say that blind persons should be prohibited from sitting in exit row seats and that this is necessary to insure the safety of the aircraft and its passengers. They will not ask that rules be made to prohibit those who are drinking from sitting in the exit rows, nor will they curtail the serving of liquor to exit row passengers voluntarily. If they can get away with it, they will blithely ignore the inconsistency and simply pound away at the safety theme, regardless of how unreasonable the argument. In fact, we have information that the airlines hope to

solve their problems by getting Federal rules which unequivocally prohibit blind passengers from sitting in exit rows and mandate other restrictions, and our sources also tell us that the airline pressures and contacts are such that Federal Aviation officials would (if the rules were made today) give them what they want.

But we have until mid-November to take our case to the Department of Transportation, Congress, and the public. If Congress and the Federal officials can be brought to understand the real nature of the situation, the airlines will not have their way. What we are asking is right—and it is reasonable. We only ask for the right to pay our money and travel on airplanes like anybody else. Because of our experience during the past several years, we have more information about what has been happening

with the airlines than anybody else in the country. We must communicate that information to Congress and DOT.

Every Monitor reader should contact his or her United States Senators and Representatives, as well as writing to the Department of Transportation. And we must not stop at that. We should also ask our friends and families to write. There must be an absolute avalanche of letters and contacts. It is not pressure but detailed information which is needed. We must tell our stories for the record. This is the time when it will count—and there must be no delay.

Here is the document which DOT filed. It contains details as to where and how to file comments. We have insisted on our right to be heard. Let us now stand and be counted:

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Office of the Secretary
14 CFR Part 382 (Notice 86-7)**

**Nondiscrimination on the Basis of
Handicap—Air Travel**

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT

SUMMARY: This is a notice requesting information about airline practices and procedures affecting the travel of blind passengers. The notice requests the comments of interested persons on a series of issues and questions concerning air travel by blind persons.

Blind individuals and their groups have expressed concern over what they view as improper treatment of blind passengers by airlines.

DATE: Comments should be received by November 20, 1986.

ADDRESS Comments should be addressed to: Docket Clerk, Docket 56e, Department of Transportation, Room 4107, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments will be available for review by the public at this address from 9:00 A.M. through 5:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Commenters wishing acknowledgment of their comments should include a stamped, self-addressed postcard with their comment. The Docket Clerk will time and date stamp the card and return it to the commenter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: Robert C. Ashby, Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulation and Enforcement, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room 10424, 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590, (202) 366-9306 (voice) or (202) 755-7687 (TDD), or Ira Laster, Office of Transportation Regulatory Affairs, Room 9217, (202) 366-4859 (same mailing address). This notice has been taped for use by visually-impaired persons. Requests for taped copies of the notice should be made to Mr. Ashby.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Allegations of Improper Conduct by Airlines

The Department has received considerable correspondence in recent months, from blind individuals and their groups as well as from members of Congress, concerning the policies and practices of air carriers with respect to blind passengers. The correspondents have said that many air carriers treat blind persons unfairly. They charge that many of the carriers assert to passengers that their practices affecting blind passengers are required for safety purposes,

when in fact they may be more for the convenience of carriers than for the safe transportation of persons with visual impairments and other passengers.

Among the airline practices which are alleged to exist and to be discriminatory are seating restrictions (e.g., refusing to allow blind persons to sit in emergency exit rows, requiring blind and other handicapped persons to sit in the rear portion of the plane), restrictions on the placement of dog guides (e.g., requiring persons with dog guides to sit in bulkhead seats), requiring blind persons to pre-board, requiring blind and other handicapped persons to be sequestered in a special holding area in the terminal prior to boarding, requiring special safety briefings for blind persons, giving discriminatory safety instructions to blind persons (e.g., informing a blind person that in case of an emergency evacuation, he or she should wait until other passengers have left the plane before attempting to exit), requiring blind persons to wait for assistance from carrier personnel before deplaning, and imposing conditions on travel inconsistent with the dignity of blind individuals (e.g., requiring a blind individual to sit on a blanket or next to a person of the same sex).

In addition, the letters have said, airlines are very inconsistent in their treatment of blind individuals. Some airlines permit or require what others discourage or prohibit. It is often difficult to get accurate information in advance about what a given airline's procedures may be, and some airlines do not make their policies and procedures readily available. Moreover, some blind persons allege, air carriers do not

succeed in ensuring that their ground or aircraft personnel know or follow airline procedures, resulting in inconsistent treatment by different personnel of the same carrier.

Existing DOT Regulations

Three existing DOT regulations affect airline practices concerning blind individuals and other persons with disabilities. First, 14 CFR Part 382 prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in the provision of air travel services by all air carriers. The rule includes more specific requirements for accommodations which carriers receiving a direct Federal subsidy must make to handicapped persons. If disabled persons believe that an air carrier has discriminated against them, they may file a complaint with the Department under Part 382. If the Department's Office of Aviation Proceedings and Enforcement believes that the complaint has merit, that Office may, if informal resolution cannot be achieved, commence enforcement action against the carrier. For example, the Department brought enforcement action against Southwest Airlines concerning that carrier's policy requiring blind-deaf individuals to travel with an attendant in all cases. A decision in this enforcement action is pending.

Second, 14 CFR section 121.586 requires carriers to file with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) their procedures concerning persons who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation. This rule does not include any criteria for assessing the impact of these procedures on blind or other disabled passengers, and the rule does not

require that carriers establish only those procedures which are essential for safety purposes. FAA reviews the procedures only for consistency with safety. That is, FAA would not direct a carrier to change a procedure unless the FAA determined that the procedure itself created a safety problem.

Because this regulation does not attempt to impose a single regulatory framework on carrier procedures, these procedures may differ. For example, one carrier may require a blind person traveling with a dog guide to sit in a bulkhead seat; another carrier may permit the person and dog to occupy any seat location. It should also be emphasized that carrier procedures, by virtue of being filed with the FAA under this regulation, do not become, or become clothed with the authority of, Federal regulations. They are simply company policies, which the FAA does not enforce.

Third, 14 CFR 121.589(e) permits stowage of flexible travel canes used by blind persons under aircraft seats. Problems concerning the stowage of canes have not been mentioned in the correspondence received recently from blind persons and their groups.

General Questions Concerning Regulatory Action

The Department is considering whether it should take additional regulatory action to address the concerns of blind individuals. One of the basic decisions the Department must make is whether any regulatory action is needed. Are the policies and practices of carriers concerning blind passengers a serious, widespread problem requiring a regula-

tory solution? To what extent could non-regulatory solutions or innovative regulatory techniques (e.g., regulatory negotiation, in which representatives of the airline industry and groups representing disabled persons meet with Department of Transportation representatives and negotiate the content of a proposed rule) be used to solve whatever problems exist?

If it is determined that the Department should take regulatory action, should that action be to require uniform practices toward blind persons by all carriers? What differences, if any, should be permitted to accommodate differing equipment, cabin configurations, and overall seating procedures (e.g., open seating vs. reserved seating)? Should the Department, if it decides to take regulatory action, publish new substantive regulations or should it proceed by issuing interpretive rules or policy statements concerning how it will apply the general nondiscrimination provision of Part 382? Should carrier procedures concerning blind (or otherwise disabled) passengers be subject to prior approval within the Department to ensure that they meet whatever substantive criteria may be established? The Department seeks comment on all these issues.

We are aware that the general regulatory issues about which we are seeking comments are likely to be of interest not only to blind persons, but to other disabled persons as well. We welcome comments from all interested persons and organizations on these issues. In addition, while this notice focuses on the specific concerns that have been expressed by blind persons, we would also welcome comments on particular issues or

practices affecting persons with other kinds of disabilities.

Specific Issues Concerning Blind Passengers

The Department seeks comment with respect to what position it should take on the following specific issues affecting blind passengers. We are particularly interested in obtaining the views of and information from interested parties on the following questions, but comments on any specific issue or practice are welcome. In discussing these issues, we request that commenters provide as much data as possible on the effects of, rationales for, and safety implications of, differing approaches. The Department would appreciate copies of any studies commenters may have relating to the safety implications of various requirements. We would also appreciate reports of specific incidents (e.g., emergency evacuations) involving blind passengers that may be relevant to the issues discussed in this notice.

1. Pre-boarding—Should it be permissible for carriers to require that all unaccompanied blind persons be pre-boarded, regardless of whether they desire such assistance or need assistance from other persons? If so, what is the basis for such a requirement?

2. Deplaning—What, if any, restrictions should be placed on blind individuals during routine deplaning? Should blind individuals be required to wait until carrier personnel arrive to assist them, or until other passengers have deplaned, before they may leave the aircraft? If yes, what is the basis for such a requirement?

3. Emergency evacuation—What re-

strictions, if any, should apply to blind persons in an emergency evacuation situation? Should blind persons be required to wait until other passengers have evacuated or until carrier personnel arrive to assist them? If yes, what is the basis for such requirements?

4. Seating of blind persons accompanied by a dog guide—Should there be seating restrictions for blind persons accompanied by dog guides? Specifically, should such persons and their dogs be required to be seated in bulkhead rows? If yes, what is the basis for such restrictions?

5. Seating of blind persons near emergency exits—What are the safety risks, if any, in permitting blind persons to sit in rows of seats adjacent to emergency exits? How have such risks been determined? Does the risk differ depending upon the configuration of aircraft? How does the risk differ, if at all, from that posed by other individuals (e.g., elderly, other disabled, or young) seated in the same positions?

6. Pre-flight and in-flight briefings—What should be the content and procedures for pre-flight and in-flight briefings for unaccompanied blind passengers? Should they be required to receive special briefings? Should such briefings differ if the blind passenger is accompanied? If so, why? (Note that 14 CFR 121.571(a)(3) requires an individual pre-flight briefing for passengers who may need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation.)

7. Emergency information—How should emergency information be communicated to blind individuals at various times (e.g., the beginning of flight, during an emergency)?

8. Training of carrier personnel—

Should carrier personnel be required to receive training concerning how to relate respectfully, courteously, and helpfully to blind persons? If so, what should be the criteria for providing such training, and what substantive information should be provided? What procedures should carrier personnel follow in order to best serve blind passengers?

9. Notification—Should blind persons traveling unaccompanied be required to notify carriers in advance of their disability? If so, should such notification be given at the same time that the reservation is made, the time of ticketing, or at the time of boarding? What would be the basis for such a requirement, as applied to blind persons who did not desire special assistance?

10. One group of blind persons has requested that airlines have no special conditions or procedures for dealing with blind passengers at all, suggesting that blind passengers simply be regarded as part of the general passenger population. What are the likely safety and service impacts of the elimination of all special practices and procedures affecting blind persons? Would such an outcome be desirable? If so, would it be appropriate for the Department to mandate this outcome by regulation?

We ask that commenters, in responding to these questions, consider whether any different rules or standards should apply to small aircraft. If the Department decides to promulgate further rules in this area, should the rules apply to operations under both 14 CFR Part 121 (e.g., large air carriers) and 14 CFR Part 135 (e.g., air taxis), or only to the former? Should any dif-

ferent requirements apply to flights that do not use flight attendants?

It appears that changes in airline practices concerning blind passengers about which this notice seeks comment would not be costly for airlines to implement. They would not require alterations in the physical configuration of aircraft, for example. Any changes in carrier operations would seem to be administrative in character. Nevertheless, we seek comment on what, if any, cost impacts such changes would have? Would such changes result in undue financial or administrative burdens on carriers?

In connection with this notice, the Department has asked the FAA to compile, from the procedures filed under 14 CFR section 121.586, the various carriers' policies affecting blind passengers. We also request that each carrier review its own filings, ensure that they are current, and inform the Department of any practices affecting the transportation of blind passengers that may not specifically appear in its filings.

On June 27, 1986, the Supreme Court decided the case of DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION v. PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA. By a 6-3 vote, the Court held that section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 does not apply to non-subsidized air carriers, since they are not recipients of Federal financial assistance. The ruling leaves intact the existing provisions of 14 CFR Part 382, the Department's regulation concerning air transportation services for disabled persons. In making its decisions concerning whether additional regulatory action with respect to disabled airline passengers is appropriate, we will consider our discretion under the legal authorities available to the Department. Issued this 5th day of August 1986, at Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Hanford Dole, Secretary

(FR Doc. 86-19044. Filed 8-21-86; 8:45 a.m.)

Billing Code: 4910-62-M

If you or a friend would like to remember the National Federation of the Blind in your will, you can do so by employing the following language:

"I give, devise, and bequeath unto National Federation of the Blind, 1800

Johnson Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, a District of Columbia nonprofit Corporation, the sum of \$_____ (or "_____ percent of my net estate" or "The following stocks and bonds: _____") to be used for its worthy purposes on behalf of blind persons."

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND CONVENTION 1986

The convention of the National Federation of the Blind which was held in Kansas City, Missouri, from June 28, 1986, through July 5, 1986, was one of the most significant in the organization's history. A new President was elected; a critical discussion with the nation's airlines occurred; major revisions to the Constitution were made; scholarships totaling almost \$100,000.00 were awarded; members of Congress and key officials of the Executive Branch of government came to speak and listen; new employment opportunities for the blind were explored; and the Federation reviewed its position and made plans for the future. It was a time of renewing commitment and examining goals. The convention began on Saturday, June 28, with a seminar for Parents of Blind Children and concluded on Saturday, July 5, with a seminar on Job Opportunities for the Blind. Between was a week packed with activities, enthusiasm, and interest.

The setting for the convention was the elegant Hyatt Regency Hotel at the nationally known Crown Center in Kansas City, but in view of the size of the crowd two other hotels (The Phillips and The Americana) were also used. The transportation problem was solved by having buses shuttling among the hotels on a 24-hour a day basis. Across the street from the Hyatt were the numerous shops and restaurants of the Crown Center, and farther afield were such attractions as Stephenson's Apple Farm and The Golden Ox Restaurant. There

were meetings throughout every day and into the evenings, and there were hospitality and renewal of friendships. In short, it was a vintage Federation convention.

On Saturday, June 28, the Merchants Division conducted a seminar on Vending and Business for State Leaders and Merchants. On Saturday evening there was a training session for interpreters for the deaf-blind.

By Sunday, June 29 the convention was in full swing. There were (among others) meetings of the Pre-authorized Check Plan (PAC) Committee, the Dog Guide Committee, the Music Committee (which this year became a Division), the Public Relations Committee, the Committee on the Senior Blind, the White Cane & Affiliate Finance Committee, the Jacobus tenBroek Memorial Fund Committee, and the Committee on Library Services. Also, on Sunday afternoon there was a meeting of the Resolutions Committee. This has come to be one of the high points of the convention. 1986 was no exception. With over 100 people in the room (often participating in discussion from the audience) the Committee acted on 35 resolutions, recommending 31 for passage. Two resolutions were withdrawn and two were defeated by vote of the convention. All of the resolutions adopted by the convention are reprinted elsewhere in this issue of the Monitor.

At nine o'clock Monday morning, June 30, the annual pre-convention meeting of the Board of Directors was held with more than a thousand Federationists



Reverend Frank Lee of Alabama was elected to the National Board of Directors. At the opening of the morning session of the convention he delivered the invocation.



Mississippi follows Minnesota in the roll call of the states. Joyce Scanlan, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota and Sam Gleese, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Mississippi.



The roll call of states proceeded apace. Patricia Estes, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Maine; Priscilla Ferris, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Massachusetts; and Allen Harris, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Michigan.

present. After roll call it was announced that the terms of all of the officers and six of the board members would expire during the convention. President Jernigan announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election. It was noted that three former board members (Harvey Webb, Uldine Thelander, and Audrey Tait) had died during the past year, and there was a moment of silent meditation in their memory.

The President submitted to the Board for consideration Resolution 86-101 (reprinted elsewhere in this issue,) which was unanimously recommended to the convention for passage. Kansas and Missouri were co-hosts for the 1986 convention, and the two state Presidents (Gary Wunder of Missouri and Dick Edlund of Kansas) officially welcomed the convention. As part of his presentation Mr. Wunder read a statement from the Governor of Missouri commending the Federation for its good work and welcoming it to the state.

The twenty-four scholarship winners were introduced to the Board and the assembled delegates. It was announced that the Scholarship Committee would meet Wednesday evening to make final determination concerning the scholarship grants to be made to each winner. It was noted that revisions to the constitution would be considered on Wednesday morning, and the financing of the movement was discussed. The names of the winners of the Associates Contest were read, and all those who had recruited more than fifty associates were asked to come to the stage to receive red, white, and blue ribbons.

The top fifteen recruiters were: 1. Allen (Sandy) Sanderson, Alaska, 459

associates; 2. William Isaacs, Illinois, 226 associates; 3. Karen Mayry, South Dakota, 178; 4. Tom Stevens, Missouri, 175; 5. Frank Lee, Alabama, 105; 6. Michael Taylor, Utah, 102; 7. Betty Hendricks, California, 98; 8. Darrel Nather, Alaska, 68; 9. Sharon Gold, California, 66; 10. Kenneth Jernigan, Maryland, 65; 11. Richard Porter, West Virginia, 60; 12. Eugene Shaw, Connecticut, 60; 13. Michael Floyd, Nebraska, 55; 14. Verla Kirsch, Iowa, 51; and 15. Gary Thompson, Connecticut, 50.

The top ten states in the recruiting of associates (members-at-large of the Federation who contributed at least ten dollars during the year) were: 1. Alaska, 574 associates; 2. Illinois, 343 associates; 3. California, 290; 4. Missouri, 254; 5. Maryland, 213; 6. South Dakota, 192; 7. Connecticut, 148; 8. Alabama, 125; 9. Utah, 123; and 10. West Virginia, 76.

It was announced that the Associates Contest for the coming year would be conducted differently from the contests of previous years. The first prize for the contest now in progress will be \$600.00; the second prize will be \$400.00; and there will be eight additional prizes of \$100.00 each. For each associate recruited the name of the recruiter will be placed in a box, and a drawing will be made at the 1987 convention to determine winners. Thus, an individual recruiting a hundred associates will have four times the chance to win a prize than a person who recruits twenty-five. Recognition will still be given to top recruiters through the awarding of ribbons and the publicizing of rank.

A new project to help fund the movement was discussed by Herbert Magin, who

is organizing and administering the program. Called the DIG (Deferred Insurance Giving) Program, this project contemplates that Federationists and their friends will buy a life insurance policy with the Federation as beneficiary. Those over forty are asked to buy a policy with a face value of at least \$10,000, and those under forty a policy of at least \$25,000 face value. The cost is extremely reasonable, and the members reacted to the program with enthusiasm. Before the week was out, 125 Federationists had signed up, and more have done so since the convention. For information contact: Herbert Magin, 7801 York Road, Suite 315, Baltimore, Maryland 21204, phone (301) 296-7733.

Before the adjournment of the Board it was noted that Fred Schroeder (President of the National Association of Blind Educators and a member of the National Board) had recently been appointed Director of the newly created New Mexico Commission for the Blind. It was also noted that Peggy Pinder (Second Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind and President of the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa) is running for State Senate in the 27th Senatorial District of Iowa. Craig Kiser (who had planned to be present at the convention and is a long-time Federationist) is running for state-wide office in Florida. He is a candidate for the office of State Comptroller.

Divisions, groups, and committees met on Monday afternoon and Monday evening. The general business sessions began on Tuesday morning with welcoming ceremonies and the roll call of states. On Tuesday afternoon the Presidential Report was given. This was followed by a panel on air travel and the blind. Marc

Maurer spoke on policy issues and consumer rights. The next to speak was Congressman Nick Rahall, who is a member of the Subcommittee on Aviation of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the U. S. House of Representatives. Other speakers on the panel were Joseph Hallissey, President of the American Society of Travel Agents; Ira Laster, Senior Program Coordinator of the Office of Transportation, Regulatory Affairs, U. S. Department of Transportation; Charles Ehlert, Director of Public Relations for Ozark Airlines; and Gabriel Phillips, Executive Vice President of the Air Transport Association of America. At times the discussion was heated, but the interchange was both instructive and worthwhile.

The Wednesday morning session began with elections. The following people were elected as officers: Marc Maurer, Maryland, President; Diane McGeorge, Colorado, First Vice President; Peggy Pinder, Iowa, Second Vice President; Allen Harris, Michigan, Secretary; and Richard Edlund, Kansas, Treasurer. Five of the six board members elected were incumbents: Steve Benson, Illinois; Charles Brown, Virginia; Glenn Crosby, Texas; Robert Eschbach, Ohio; and Joyce Scanlan, Minnesota. Ronald Byrd of Texas, who had served with credit, was replaced on the Board by Frank Lee of Alabama. Six board members were not up for election since their terms do not expire until 1987: Sid Allen, West Virginia; Don Capps, South Carolina; Theresa Herron, New Hampshire; Betty Niceley, Kentucky; Fred Schroeder, New Mexico; and Gary Wunder, Missouri.

When the results of the election were announced, president-elect Maurer spoke in part as follows:



The blind are as varied in their careers as the sighted. Sandy Kelly (Denver, Colorado) talked about "Working As A Court Reporter," and Allen Harris (Department Chairman, Social Studies, Edsel Ford High School, Dearborn, Michigan) spoke on the topic: "No Holds Barred—I teach, And I Coach Wrestling In A Public High School."



Joanne Fernades, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana, told the delegates how the blind of her state are "Leading The Way In Their Own Rehabilitation." Many of her students were present to prove it.



President-Elect Marc Maurer spoke to the delegates concerning "Air Travel and the Blind: Policy Issues and Consumer Rights."

"The presidency of the National Federation of the Blind is a sacred trust. It carries with it both great honor and tremendous responsibility. When I joined this organization in 1969, Dr. Jernigan was our President. My first convention was dynamic and exciting. Like Dr. tenBroek before him, Dr. Jernigan stayed on the cutting edge. He combined hard decision-making with great compassion. Dr. Jernigan's Presidency has been characterized by imagination, enthusiasm, love for others, and the drive for success. And there are other things: We never lose because we never quit. Sometimes there are minor and temporary setbacks—but that is just what they are, minor and temporary. If one approach doesn't work, we think up another. If the first effort isn't successful, we alter the strategy and try again. Our problems are solved because we never leave them until they are solved. This is what Dr. Jernigan's Presidency has meant. This is our heritage—the responsibilities which you as members and I as President are pledged to meet.

"In the National Federation of the Blind we give our presidents great power. We expect them to use it wisely and well. But use it they must—making plans, taking risks, and making progress. I am glad that I have been a part of our movement while Dr. Jernigan was President. It goes without saying that I am also extremely glad that he will continue to be an integral part of and a moving force in the Presidency which is about to begin. This organization is the single most important factor in the struggle by the blind for equality and independence. I intend that we shall go forward without inter-

ruption. In a word, under this Presidency we must continue to be the National Federation of the Blind."

This statement by president-elect Maurer brought an enthusiastic response from the membership. President Jernigan then said:

"Our opponents externally and our organization internally will probably not see much change in what we've been doing in this organization. In the future as in the past, I intend to go ahead and act when I need to on behalf of the organization. Marc Maurer and I are going to act as one in many things. Marc Maurer is going to act, and I'm going to back what he acts in and support what he does; and I'm going to take pride in the accomplishments that he makes. But what really is going to happen is this: We're going to have a smooth transition in the Presidency—which is why I stepped out as early as I did. Hopefully if my health holds up and if things go as I believe they will go, there will be an orderly and a rather long transition. There will be things immediately that will be changed. There will be many things that won't. Marc will plan next year's agenda. He will preside at next year's convention. He will make appointments as to who will go to state conventions. There will be many other things that he will do. He will be dealing with more and more of the correspondence (although I will deal with some of it). But you must understand that when Marc acts, he will be acting for me as well as for himself. And when I act, I will be acting for him as well as for me.

"Marc isn't going to do things exactly

as I did them. You know that, and I know that. I'm also human enough and strong-willed enough to know that there are going to be times when he is going to do things that I would have done in another way. There will be times when I will feel: 'Well, I wish he had done it differently.' That's bound to be. I hope to keep in mind when that happens that he must be supported—and supported fully—and I will do that.

"The success of this Presidency will depend on several things. First, it will depend on my maturity and my sincerity in saying what I have said to you. It will depend on my love for the organization, my willingness to push Marc forward, and my determination to do conscientiously and in spirit everything which I can to help make his Presidency a success. I tell you that I will do that. It will also depend on you. You have to support him in the same way you have supported me. There are going to be some people who will test Marc and see whether he is really strong enough and has grit enough to say no—or whether he is compassionate enough to know when to say yes. You have to support him. We have to support him as an organization.

"But above all, whether Marc Maurer will be successful as President of the National Federation of the Blind will depend on him. We can give him the Presidency. In fact, we have given it to him, but we can't keep the Presidency for him. He must do that for himself. I believe we have made the best choice we could have made. I believe that the organization will be in good hands with Marc Maurer as leader. And I believe that the people outside of this organization who think that, because I am

ceasing to be President, there will be a time of indecision and weakness, which they can exploit, will be sorely disappointed.

"You have my unconditional pledge that I will do everything that I know how to do (with every bit of energy that I have) to make this organization in the future even better than it has been in the past, and to make Marc Maurer's Presidency a success. I will try to behave with all of the love and maturity that I know how to muster."

After the elections the remainder of Wednesday morning was taken up with consideration and revision of the Constitution. The convention was adjourned, and all of those present were appointed as a Committee of the Whole. The Constitution was read and considered sentence by sentence, section by section, and article by article. After more than two hours of discussion the convention reconvened and adopted the revised Constitution. It was the first time since 1970 that the entire Constitution had been reviewed and revised by the convention.

Wednesday afternoon and evening were taken up with tours, committee meetings, and social activities. Thursday (beginning at 8:30 in the morning) was a full day of program activities. Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, spoke on the impact of Gramm-Rudman-Hollings on library services for the blind. Charles Young, Administrator of the Oregon Commission for the Blind and President of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind, talked about the activities of the National Council of State Agen-



The escalators were crowded as the blind of the nation assembled for the 1986 convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Kansas City.



President Jernigan and Mrs. Hazel tenBroek received commemorative plates from Peggy Pinder, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Iowa.

cies for the Blind. The leaders of the New Mexico affiliate talked about the establishment of the new Commission for the Blind in that state, and the leaders of the Louisiana affiliate told the delegates how the blind of Louisiana are leading the way in their own rehabilitation. Both presentations were inspiring and enthusiastic. Dennis Wyant, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Services for the Veterans Administration, talked about programs for blinded veterans; and Gerald Kass, Executive Vice President of the Jewish Braille Institute of America, spoke on the topic: "Return to Jericho." Clarence Thomas, Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Chairman of the Interagency Committee on Handicapped Employees, talked about options and opportunities in Federal employment. In one of the most inspiring presentations of the convention, Elijah Cummings, Chairman of the Black Caucus of the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, spoke on the topic: "Black Civil Rights, White Civil Rights: The Nature of Freedom." During the day presentations were made by three members of Congress: James C. Slattery, Congressman for the 2nd District of Kansas; Dan Glickman, Congressman for the 4th District of Kansas; and James A. Traficant, Jr., Congressman for the 17th District of Ohio.

The Thursday afternoon session began with a presentation by Patricia Owens, Associate Commissioner for Disability of the Social Security Administration. These annual presentations by top officials of the Social Security Administration have been an important part of our recent conventions and have brought many positive results. One of the high

points of the convention was the panel on Thursday afternoon featuring some of our own members discussing their careers. Judy Sanders, Assistant Director for the District Office for Congressman Gerry Sikowski of Minnesota, talked about working in a Congressional office. Allen Harris (Chairman of the Department of Social Studies at Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn, Michigan) talked about his work as a teacher and wrestling coach in a public high school. Peggy Pinder, who is a candidate for election to the State Senate in Iowa, talked about the challenge of seeking elective office. Sandy Kelly, one of the leaders of the Colorado affiliate, talked about the breakthroughs for blind people who want to work as court reporters. And to conclude this impressive panel, Arthur Schreiber (Vice President of Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.; and General Manager of KOB AM-FM, Albuquerque, New Mexico) talked about his work as a broadcast executive. The panel was the tangible expression of Federationism in action and the embodiment of the philosophy which motivates our movement.

At the opening of the Thursday afternoon session we had an unexpected and pleasant addition to the program. Actor Eric Douglas (son of Kirk Douglas) appeared before the convention to make radio and television public service announcements for the National Federation of the Blind. He was in Kansas City starring in the play "Butterflies are Free," and came to the convention hall to make public service announcements for us on stage while the convention was in session. The announcements are now in the process of preparation and should be ready for release soon. After making the public service spots,

Eric Douglas announced that he had become a member of the National Federation of the Blind, and was an associate.

As usual, the banquet on Thursday night was the climax of the convention. Friday was taken up with resolutions, financial matters, and internal busi-

ness; and as the convention drew to a close, plans were already being made to go to Phoenix in 1987.

It was one of the best conventions in Federation history—one that will be long remembered and that will have a major impact on the lives of the blind of the nation.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI
JULY 1, 1986**

The past year has been one of the best which the National Federation of the Blind has ever had. It has been a time of accomplishment and a time of challenge. We have probably done more public education and had more public recognition than ever before in our history. We have had harmony and unity of purpose. All you need do to verify these facts is to look around you at this convention. It is a suitable climax for a wonderful year.

A good place to begin in talking about the past twelve months is with what happened immediately after last year's national convention. Art Schreiber, who is here today, manages the most influential radio station in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is also a Vice President of the Hubbard Broadcasting Company, a past board member of the Associated Press,

and a man with broad contacts in the radio and television industry.

Art, Fred Schroeder, and I went to New York July 10 of last year and met with the Presidents of CBS and NBC Radio and the Vice President in Charge of Operations of ABC. It was a most productive meeting, resulting in increased airing of our public service radio and television spots and giving us valuable contacts.

In August a representative of the British Broadcasting Corporation visited our headquarters at the National Center for the Blind in Baltimore to study our programs for the BBC, and on the same day six visitors from Japan toured our facilities.

On August 16 I spoke to the Section of Libraries for the Blind of the International Federation of Library Associa-

tions at the Library of Congress. The way that meeting came about is illustrative of the increasing recognition which the Federation is receiving. The Section of Libraries for the Blind of the International Federation of Library Associations is a group representing libraries for the blind throughout the world. It had never met in the United States before 1985, and the program planners said they wanted to hear from blind consumers, from the people who use library services in this country. They made it clear that this meant they wanted to hear from the National Federation of the Blind and its President.

On October 18 a group of foreign journalists visited the National Center for the Blind for a tour and luncheon. They were from England and West Germany, and ours was the only facility for the blind they visited.

Increasingly the dedication of our members, their ability to perceive and take advantage of opportunity, the worthwhileness of our cause, and our ability to act decisively and with dispatch are coming together to advance our cause. Last fall Bob Hope was in Louisiana, and he visited the training center which Joanne Fernandes and our other Louisiana members run. He was so much impressed that he asked what he could do to help us. Joanne asked him whether he would be willing to make radio and television spots for us. He said that he would and that he would contact us. One day shortly before Christmas I was in my office working late when I received a phone call from Joanne. She said that Bob Hope's representative had called to say that Hope was taping his Christmas show and if we could prepare suitable copy and phone it

to him in fifteen minutes, he would use it. Otherwise he wouldn't. The opportunity was too good to miss—so, of course, I could and did. You know the results. Our Bob Hope radio and television spots are being heard and seen throughout the nation. Our other television and radio announcements are also being aired, and scarcely a day goes by without evidence of their effectiveness.

For the past several years an increasing number of governors and mayors have been proclaiming National Federation of the Blind Week or Day or Month. The trend continues to accelerate. Since the last convention mayors of cities (large and small) throughout the country have issued proclamations, and the governors of at least six states have done likewise. Of course, all of this publicity and recognition has no meaning unless it results in better lives for blind people—and it has and does. We cannot change society's attitudes about us unless we can take our message to the public. In fact, the proclamations and the other publicity are as much an indicator of how far we still have to go as of how far we have come. Blind people are no longer hidden away in the back streets and the back rooms. We are coming to the center of the stage, and we are speaking with a clear voice—our own voice.

As you know, we have had a tremendous battle during the last year trying to save the federal subsidies which permit free reading matter for the blind and reduced postage rates for non-profit third-class mailings. Some time early in September the head of the Nonprofit Mailers Federation came to our headquarters in Baltimore and talked with me about setting up a breakfast meeting on

Capitol Hill for Congressional leaders and members of interested organizations. He said that the stature and influence of the National Federation of the Blind were such that the group wanted me to chair the meeting. I agreed to do so, and the meeting took place on September 19. Besides the Nonprofit Mailers Federation and the National Federation of the Blind, the other organizations involved were the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Society of Association Executives. Federationists from around the country were present. In fact, we had the largest and most active delegation there. I am convinced that our presence at that breakfast and our actions throughout the remainder of the day, plus the other steps we have taken in succeeding months have been a key factor (perhaps the key factor) in saving the postal subsidies and preserving Revenue Foregone.

Our breakfast (which was held at the Rayburn House Office Building) was attended by Senator Ted Stevens, Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Civil Service, Post Office, and General Services. He was obviously impressed. Only a week later we were on the way to passing legislation in the Senate which delayed further postage rate increases. Senator Stevens introduced the bill and attributed his efforts to the meeting which I have just described. In his statement on the floor of the Senate he mentioned us by name and spoke of our needs.

Later in the week you will hear more about the battle to preserve Revenue Foregone. For now let me say only this: Last year as we met at Louisville, it appeared we were in danger of a complete

cutoff of the appropriations to subsidize postage rates. If this had happened, our activities would have been severely curtailed. It did not happen, and we are principally responsible. Although there have been some postage increases during the past twelve months, they have been relatively small, and they appear (at least, for the moment) to be stabilized.

One of the most difficult problems we have faced in recent times has been our confrontation with the airlines. The Federal Aviation Administration has tended to duck the issue of discrimination against the blind, and the air carriers have behaved with the whim and caprice one would expect in the circumstances. As we move from second-class status to first-class citizenship, our expectations and awareness naturally increase. Unfortunately so do the hostility and resentment against us—not permanently, of course, and not from everybody but from those who feel insecurity within themselves and need somebody to bully, and from those who have a vested interest in putting us down and keeping us out.

Last year, going home from the national convention in Louisville, Steve and Nadine Jacobson (fresh from the discussions and reinforcement) were harassed and bullied without cause or reason on a United Airlines flight. They were ordered to move from their assigned seats, and when they refused, they were arrested and taken to jail like common criminals. They were physically abused, partially strip-searched, and kept in a cell. Some of their belongings were stolen by the very police who were sworn to uphold the law—and why? Because they insisted on

acting like free American citizens. We went to court, and the jury said that the Jacobsons had done no wrong; but this does not erase the humiliation. It only speaks to the work we still must do to establish the right of the blind to travel where they please on lawful business throughout the country without interference. It is a right we intend to establish—by negotiation and persuasion if we can, by court action and legislation if we must, and by confrontation and action in the streets if we have no other alternative. We have organized for collective action, and we will do what we have to do. We are simply no longer willing to be second-class citizens.

There is more, much more, to the airline battles of the last year. Our members have been arrested, carried off of planes for doing nothing more than sitting where they were assigned, brow-beaten and publicly abused, ordered to give personal information about themselves which other passengers were not required to give, ridiculed, and threatened.

Later today and throughout the rest of the week you will hear detailed discussions concerning the airline battle and what we are doing about it, but the broad outline is quickly given. It is not just the leaders of this organization who are now aroused and determined. It is individual blind people all over the country. To put it bluntly, we have had enough. It is not that we go to airports and plan confrontations. It is simply that we have been humiliated and harassed to the point that those of us who formerly submitted to indignities without outward resistance have reached the end of our endurance. This means

that every blind man and woman who flies on a plane this year is more likely to say no to second class treatment than would have been the case last year.

We are also taking action collectively. Last October Ellis Reida (who edits NINNESCAH, a magazine written specifically for the airlines) came to the National Center to interview me. We talked at length, and the substance of our conversation was the feature article in the January issue of NINNESCAH. It was read by airline officials throughout the country. Increasingly those officials are also reading and discussing the BRAILLE MONITOR. All of this has its impact.

Of course, we are also continuing our court cases, but we have shifted much of the thrust of our effort to Congress and the federal Department of Transportation. This spring the chairman and the ranking minority member of the House Aviation Subcommittee sent a letter to Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole expressing concern about the treatment the blind are receiving by the airlines, and on May 22 of this year, 44 members of the United States Senate did likewise. Here is what the senators said:

Dear Secretary Dole:

We are writing to express our concern about reports of discrimination against blind air travellers by commercial airlines.

It has been brought to our attention that the airlines' policies regarding treatment of blind passengers vary greatly, and there are reports that some airlines subject blind individuals to humiliating treatment. For example, in some cases blind people have been told

that they must sit on blankets or be seated next to people of the same sex. Other instances of discrimination include reports that some airlines single out blind passengers and force them to attend a special briefing and to answer questions about it. On other occasions, blind air travellers have been forced to preboard even if they don't want to and have been told that in an emergency they will have to wait until the end of the evacuation line.

We are informed that these are not isolated incidents but instead reveal a systematic pattern of abuse. These practices do not appear to enhance airline safety and are an affront to the capabilities and dignity of blind people.

We are writing to request that DOT investigate this issue and, if necessary, revise current regulations. We further request your response to the enclosed questions which were drafted by the National Federation of the Blind.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Such a letter cannot go unanswered and cannot fail to make an impression. Moreover, formal complaints by individual blind people are now being submitted to the Department of Transportation. We have filed complaints on behalf of Marc Maurer, Steve Hastalis, and Peggy Pinder; and a complaint from Mary Ellen Reihing is now in the works. Without such complaints the Department of Transportation would probably not take formal action—but with them such action is automatically triggered. We are hopeful that the decision will be favorable.

That the Department of Transportation

is now gearing up to deal with the problem is indicated by the visit on March 14 of this year of two of its top officials to the National Center for the Blind. We talked in detail, and I believe the talks were productive. One of those officials, Ira Laster, is with us today, and the very fact of his presence is evidence of the progress. There were no firm commitments at our March meeting, but I believe we will hear things today from Mr. Laster which will show that the tide is turning.

Yes, the battle with the airlines has been long, but I am convinced that the end is approaching. What we ask is simple: It is only that the blind be treated like other adult, responsible citizens. We are not seeking special favors—we are only asking for what is ours by right—and we intend to have it. We neither beg nor bluster—but we will do what we have to do. We are simply no longer willing to be second-class citizens.

At last year's convention I talked to you about the contracts which the Department of Defense had signed with the fast food chains and about the threats to the Randolph-Sheppard Program posed by the actions of GSA and the post office. With respect to the fast food contracts our problem was not to prevent an action but to try to undo it. Against our advice, the American Council of the Blind and certain agencies took the matter to court, using the Randolph-Sheppard Act as the vehicle. We told them that the risks were too great and that there were better ways to achieve the objective. Congressional oversight hearings could be stimulated, and negotiations could be carried on with officials of the Executive Branch.

As you know, the results of the ACB court case were disastrous. In January of 1985 summary judgment was given in favor of the Defense Department and the fast food chains. Moreover, the court went beyond the question at issue and made pronouncements jeopardizing the entire Randolph-Sheppard Program. An appeal from the lower court decision was made by ACB and the others who brought the ill-fated case, and we were faced with a dilemma. If we entered the case, we risked losing credibility by keeping such company, and if we did not enter, the appeal might be handled so badly that every blind vendor in the country would suffer the consequences. Under the circumstances we had no choice. We filed a motion to enter the case as an amicus. The American Council of the Blind and the fast food chains stood together in opposing our entrance into the case, but the court decided against them. We presented our brief and are now awaiting the court's decision. I understand that during the past few days the appeals court has made a decision along the lines which we requested, but I have not had the opportunity to study the order.

As we told the American Council of the Blind at the outset, there are times when court cases are appropriate and times when they are not. A perfect example is what we have accomplished with the General Services Administration. We have now achieved a solid and final victory concerning the issue of cafeterias to be operated by the blind in buildings controlled by GSA. You will remember that top officials of GSA attended our 1985 convention to discuss the Randolph-Sheppard Program. At that time it was agreed that we would make a

formal written proposal that they change their policies with respect to the awarding of cafeterias to blind vendors. We presented the proposal immediately after the convention, and under date of December 23, 1985, GSA replied, giving us what we had asked. According to its official procedures GSA will not in the future offer for commercial bidding any cafeteria contract until the State agency for the blind has first officially turned it down or failed to respond within a reasonable time. In short, the blind will get the first crack at the cafeteria without any competition. Also, no cafeteria contract that is now in force with a commercial food operator will be extended until the blind have been given the opportunity to take the location if they want it.

As the correspondence will demonstrate, these decisions are the direct result of our negotiations with GSA in response to its effort to bring fast food chains into federal buildings.

Last fall at our request Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska held a special Congressional hearing on these issues. The outcome was extremely positive and was a major factor in the victory I have described. Until the blind have had the first right of refusal, there will be no more bidding for cafeterias in GSA buildings. This is Federationism in action.

Last year we were asked by the state of Arizona to assist with an arbitration involving the United States Post Office. Jim Gashel served on the arbitration panel as Arizona's representative. The case is over, and Arizona won. The postal service agreed to provide free space for a cafeteria operated by a

blind vendor at the new main post office which opened last summer in Phoenix. Also, as a result of the arbitration, the cafeteria contract is made permanent. Moreover, the blind vendor at the post office is receiving forty percent of all vending machine income throughout the building rather than the thirty percent which the law requires. This is only one case, but it has nationwide implications. It helps set a tone and create an atmosphere. It is why the Federation is what it is and gets the results which it gets.

Don Hudson, Richard Jack, and the Colorado Committee of Blind Vendors have obtained an injunction against the Colorado State Agency for the Blind with our assistance. The case involves a vending location at the United States Postal Service, Denver Terminal Annex. The business was being operated by one vendor, but the state agency decided to split it up among two or more. We went to court, and we blocked the splitting of the location. An administrative appeal is pending, and there will probably need to be an arbitration eventually. Meanwhile, the Terminal Annex location remains as one business—and we intend to see that it stays that way. It is an old story for the agencies to decide that a blind vendor is making too much money and that the income should be split among two or three. Although the agencies have no problem in feeling that this is appropriate for blind vendors, they never seem to feel that it is equally appropriate as a procedure which should be followed with respect to their own salaries. If the agency can divide the income from a single location among several vendors, it can get credit for a greater number of rehabilitations;

its task will be made easier; and the clients will have an appropriately modest income and be kept in their places. But that is not the way we intend to have it.

Betty Tetzlaff was operating a vending facility at the main post office in Evansville, Indiana. She started in May of 1981. From the beginning, the Indiana agency required Betty to pay a percentage of her gross income to the postal employees' recreation fund. We started an administrative appeal and advised Betty to stop making the illegal payments. There were hearings, and finally an arbitration. As is our custom in such matters, we won. The payments were illegal, and with our help Betty recovered \$6,447.01. Marc Maurer was our representative, and we recovered the whole amount—including the one cent.

Jelene Kennedy is a blind vendor at the post office in Indianapolis. She has been there for four years. Even though she is entitled under the Randolph-Sheppard Act to receive the net profits of the business, the state agency has only been paying her the minimum wage, \$3.35 an hour—no more. This has been going on throughout her entire period as a vendor. Although Jelene Kennedy does all of the work and runs the vending facility (a fairly large business, incidentally), the agency has diverted all of the proceeds to another vendor. And when we learned about it, what do you think we did? We are beginning an appeal, and we intend to win it.

Helen Bryan and Effie McClanahan are vendors in West Virginia. Last July they filed a civil rights complaint against the West Virginia Society for

the Blind and Severely Disabled. We helped from the very beginning. Both Helen and Effie had been in the West Virginia vending program for many years. They had a combined seniority of forty-one years, but neither of them had ever been promoted. In fact, Helen had been demoted at least once. Both are totally blind, or very nearly so. As we looked at the situation, we found that vendors were getting better locations in proportion to how much sight they had. Also, there were issues of sex discrimination. Earlier this year a hearing was held before the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. Both Dick Porter and Jim Gashel have been working on this case. The decision is now in, and the hearing officer has ruled that Helen and Effie are each to receive back pay from May of 1985 in the amount of \$1,080 per month. Each of them will receive the payments until she is promoted into a vacant location. In addition, Helen and Effie are each given compensation of \$2,500 for embarrassment and humiliation.

A discussion about vendors would not be complete without a few words concerning the Jessie Nash case. As I have reported in almost every Presidential Report since 1977, we are still working on the Jessie Nash case. It has taken a long time, but we have won every battle so far. Three years ago Jessie was returned to the vending facility that was illegally taken from her. She still successfully operates it. Now, we are dealing with the money which is owed to her as a result of the unlawful action of the state of Georgia in allowing her vending facility to be closed in the first place. Almost two years ago there was a supplemental arbitration award that Jessie is entitled to recover about

\$35,000 from the state, but the state has never paid it. We have been patient, but there comes a time when patience is not a virtue. We are going back to federal court (arbitration order in hand) to get a judgment for the money which is owed. I have said it before, and I say it again. We never quit, and we never give up—and the Jessie Nash case is about the best evidence you could have to prove it.

The decision in the case of Robert Albanese vs. Delaware is beyond a doubt the most important court ruling ever made affecting the rights of blind vendors under the Randolph-Sheppard Program. Our argument and brief in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit made the difference. Our opponents were the State of Delaware and the United States Department of Education. We beat them both. The ruling says clearly that blind vendors in the Randolph-Sheppard Program have the right to collect monetary damages from a state agency which has violated the law. The court says that the relationship between vendors and the state agencies is contractual in nature and must be treated accordingly. Once a state has entered into the agreement, it cannot "welch" on the deal. The Albanese decision has put teeth into the Randolph-Sheppard Act, and the National Federation of the Blind was the dentist.

Even though we have succeeded in the courts and in negotiations with the federal agencies, major perils still lie ahead for blind vendors. Two states (Wyoming and Montana) have now officially withdrawn from the program. In Wyoming the General Services Administration cooperated with us in negotiating a private agreement for Melanie Rudell,

the only blind vendor in the state, to continue in her business. As you know, Melanie is the President of our Wyoming affiliate. She is here at the convention.

As for Montana, the four blind vendors on federal property were out of work as of the end of June. Four more vendors (the remaining ones) will lose their locations as soon as the program can be phased out. At this point it is hard to know whether we can find a way to revive the vending program in these states, but if we don't do it, I doubt that anybody else will. Every vending location in the country is now in danger, and we must take the strongest possible action to see that the vending program in the remaining states is not destroyed. Of course, much depends on the willingness of vendors throughout the country to stand with us and help fight for themselves. Many vendors are already members of the National Federation of the Blind, but it is hard to see how any can fail to join.

We continue to fight to better the conditions of blind sheltered shop workers. Most of the laws pertaining to wages and conditions of employment in the sheltered shops were passed before the National Federation of the Blind was even organized. It has been a long battle to reverse the negative and bring positive changes. Moreover, there are new attempts to make the conditions of blind shop workers worse. Legislation is currently pending in Congress to allow workshops to have increased discretion in paying subminimum wages. The bill has been introduced in both the House and the Senate. It would remove the provision which guarantees most blind shop workers at least fifty per-

cent of the minimum wage. According to testimony from the Labor Department, if this legislation passes, the workshops could pay: "Anything above zero." I emphasize that this is a direct quote. We were there to testify against the bills, and I think we were successful. I believe these bills will not pass.

Meanwhile the workshops are also trying to obtain small business set-aside contracts. On the one hand, the workshops want to be called rehabilitation centers (that is, when they want to avoid paying the minimum wage or having to deal with labor unions); but on the other hand, they want to be called small businesses when they want the small business set-aside contracts. In our testimony we told the Congress that if workshops want to be treated like small businesses, they should behave like small businesses and have the responsibilities of small businesses. Let them pay minimum wages; let them acknowledge that their employees have the right to be represented by unions; and let them make other needed reforms. The workshops are not rehabilitation centers. We know it; they know it; and Congress is beginning to know it. I can tell you this: There will be no small business set-aside contracts for the workshops unless they agree to major reforms. We have made certain of that.

We continue to defend the rights of the blind across the whole spectrum of everyday life. Last October Wanda Pecher attempted to rent a safety deposit box from the Bank of Delaware. She was told that if she wanted the box, she would either have to sign a paper holding the bank harmless from any loss or agree to have a sighted person authorized to open the safety deposit

box for her. That, of course, is a totally unreasonable and outrageous requirement. We have negotiated with the bank, and they have agreed to change their policy. However, they have not yet done so. We will see that they do.

Nancy Albright is from Sacramento, California. She applied for a job at McClelland Air Force Base, but her application for employment was not just turned down—it was not even accepted. There was a medical disqualification on grounds of blindness. This was not a military but a civilian job. We are appealing through Equal Employment Opportunity procedures.

Ken Harrington is a Federationist from Oregon. He worked for a lumber mill until he became blind. Then, he was told that he could no longer work there. His employers said that they knew he could do the work, but they were concerned about liability. What if a log accidentally slipped? What if something else should happen to injure a blind employee? In concert with the Oregon affiliate, we helped Ken Harrington find one of the best-known civil rights lawyers in the state. We are making an appeal. In the meantime (and best of all) Ken Harrington's employment at the mill was not terminated in April as scheduled.

Amy Williams is a Federationist from Pennsylvania. Last July she was offered a course at the Philadelphia Handicapped Training Center. She was supposed to be trained as an information specialist. The work involved using computers. Amy is totally blind. Two other students in the class were also totally blind. The other students in the class had some usable vision. And what do you suppose? At the end of the orientation period

(the first thirty days of the course) the three who were totally blind were told that they could not complete the class. With our help Amy has filed a federal discrimination complaint. The complaint is now under investigation.

Connie Leblond is our state president in Maine. Her preschool-age son, Seth, is also blind. He is now the subject of a federal civil rights complaint filed against the Lewiston, Maine, School District. As you can see, Seth is becoming a Federationist early in life. The problem arose when the Lewiston schools refused to allow Seth to attend headstart classes on any day that the regular teacher was absent. There were concerns (you guessed it) about safety. How would Seth function in a classroom with a substitute teacher? The school district has sought to reserve the right to make Seth stay home on any day when the regular teacher is not in attendance. The complaint is going forward, and we intend to prevail.

Mark Haring is a maintenance worker with the Indiana Department of Highways. He is also blind. Late last year the Highway Department tried to terminate his employment. That's where we got involved. We helped commence a court action, and we secured an injunction to block Mark's termination from employment. The state Attorney General tried to have the injunction overturned but lost. Mark Haring is still on the job. As might be expected, the Indiana Highway officials are engaging in tactics of harassment, hoping that Mark will give up and go away. We think he won't, and we think that Ron Matias and the other Federationists in Indiana will see that he gets the support he needs.

We continue to deal with Social

Security appeals. Wayne Miller of Colorado was charged with receiving an overpayment of close to \$40,000, dating back to 1977. As we looked at the law, we thought the Social Security officials had not interpreted it correctly. In fact, we said that Social Security owed money to Wayne rather than Wayne's owing \$40,000 to them. Diane McGeorge was heavily involved in this case. As it turned out, the Social Security Administration owed Wayne almost \$20,000, which he has now received.

Blind parents continue to have their children taken from them—not because they are bad parents but because they are blind. Patsie Morgan is a blind mother whose children (two of them) were taken from her by Pennsylvania authorities near Harrisburg. The authorities said that before they would permit Patsie to keep her children, she must demonstrate that she could travel independently. A neighbor had filed a complaint with the county. This story does not have a happy ending. It shows what can happen to blind people when the pressures build. For no valid reason, Patsie was being forced to prove her fitness as a blind mother. In the face of the pressure she decided not to continue to fight. As long as this sort of thing can happen to any blind person in this country, not one of us is safe, and not one of us is totally free.

Anita Alston is a Federationist in our Northwest Indiana Chapter, located in Gary. Anita has not been blind very long. She is now engaged in a custody battle with her former husband. He is claiming that as a blind person, Anita is not fit to raise the youngest of their two children. The issue before the court is clear-cut. It is strictly

Anita's blindness. We are helping with testimony, legal advice, and moral support—and we intend to win.

There is also a custody case in Colorado, and there are a number of others in various parts of the country. Whatever the cost and whatever it takes, we simply cannot permit children to be taken (without cause or reason) from blind parents. We must fight it with all that we have and all that we are.

I am pleased to tell you that we have helped Sandy Kelly become a court reporter. To the best of my knowledge she is the first totally blind court reporter who uses the standard stenographic methods, the same methods used by sighted court reporters for making transcripts. We have helped develop a special computer program which translates the print characters into Braille. This means that Sandy can immediately read back testimony. This is an absolute first. It was designed by our member Curtis Willoughby.

We continue to have good relations with the Social Security Administration. Patricia Owens, Associate Commissioner for Disability, came to last year's convention, and she will also be present on Thursday afternoon this year. When she was with us in Louisville, she promised that she would work with us to develop new approaches to the rehabilitation and training of blind people. She has kept her word. On two occasions during the past year she and her top staff have come to the National Center for the Blind to see our programs and discuss actions we might jointly take. The plan has not yet been finalized, but I believe it will be. I think it will be successful and that Social Security will work in partnership with us to

bring a new day in rehabilitation and job possibilities for the blind.

In New Mexico we have taken the initiative in establishing a separate agency for the blind, the New Mexico Commission for the Blind. You will hear about it later in the week. Federationist Art Schreiber is the Chairman of the three-member Commission board, and Federationist Geatha Pai is a member of the board. Fred Schroeder has just been appointed Executive Director.

As was the case last year we are giving bigger and better scholarships to blind persons at this convention than ever before in our history. Twenty-four of the nation's best blind students will receive scholarships which (including travel expenses) will amount to almost \$100,000. This is a tangible expression of our faith in the future and our belief in the coming generation.

The circulation of the BRAILLE MONITOR (in print, in Braille, and on disc) continues to increase. I believe that no one can challenge the statement that the MONITOR is the most influential publication in the field of blindness in the country. We also continue to publish FUTURE REFLECTIONS, our magazine for parents and educators of blind children; and we circulate on cassette the AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION JOURNAL. Our distribution of literature and of aids and appliances continues to grow at an astonishing rate. During the past year we have sent out more than three-quarters of a million items. We continue (in partnership with the United States Department of Labor) to operate the program of Job Opportunities for the Blind. It is one of the most successful efforts we have ever made.

Our facilities at the National Center

for the Blind are the best in the nation, and they are serving the purpose for which we established them. More and more Federationists come to the Center each month to study, exchange ideas, get information, and plan for joint action.

As I bring this report to a conclusion, I necessarily think back through the years of my presidency. When I assumed the office in 1968, we were a much smaller and less powerful organization than we are today. During the past eighteen years we have strengthened our movement and brought new opportunity to the blind of the country. We have worked together, comforted each other in sorrow, and shared our triumphs.

As President I have led this organization as firmly, as wisely, and as lovingly as I have known how to lead. I have never asked any of you to do what I have not been willing to do myself, and I have tried to lead with my head as well as with my heart, avoiding tasks which were impossible but taking risks that were necessary and justifiable. I have tried to be mindful of the heritage we received from Dr. tenBroek and the other founders and of our obligation to protect and cherish that heritage—the obligation to build it and to pass it on to the coming generation. We have kept faith with the early leaders and founders, and I know that we always will.

We have also kept faith with each other—you with me, and I with you. You have repeatedly given me the highest honor and the greatest responsibility which you can bestow, the Presidency of our movement—and I have repeatedly taken risks and stood in the front of the battle, knowing that you would support me and not permit me to fall.

Yes, you have given me unqualified support, but you have given me more than that. You have given me your trust and your love. As long as I live, I will participate actively in this organization and devote to it such talent and ability as I possess. That is what it means to be a Federationist. Our movement is worth the very best that each of

us can give to it and because of our commitment and what the movement means, we will not fail in the years and decades ahead. We go together into the future to build an even stronger organization than we have today, one which will complete the task of bringing freedom and first-class status to every blind person in the nation.

JACOBUS TENBROEK AWARD

(The following presentation was made by Marc Maurer on Thursday evening, July 3, 1986, at the annual banquet of the National Federation of the Blind convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri.)

Let me offer an ancient and wise proverb: "If you give a person a fish, you can feed him or her for a day. If you teach that same person how to fish, you can feed him or her for a lifetime."

No individual in the history of the National Federation of the Blind has taught more blind people how to fish, worked harder, loved more or given more generously of time, talent, energy or resources than Dr. Jacobus tenBroek. He it was who founded this movement, and his spirit is present with us this evening. College professor, author, noted Constitutional lawyer, chairman of a major department at the University of California, public servant, brilliant and blind, Dr. tenBroek was an orator noted for his eloquence, a thinker noted for his wisdom and a leader noted for his accomplishment.

His great work in teaching the blind of this nation how to fish and his love were the powerful forces which brought hope into the barren world of the blind in 1940 and which showed the way for the founding of the organized blind movement. His personal characteristics have also provided the example for the Federation lifestyle which we live each day throughout the year.

Beginning in 1968, Dr. Jernigan, like Dr. tenBroek before him, took up the torch and has led the blind of America into a new generation—a generation marked by self-reliance and carried forward through self-determination. He, too, has taught many of us how to fish and fish well.

In recognition of the powerful impact of Dr. tenBroek's life upon each of us, we have established the Jacobus tenBroek Award. The Award is to be presented only to members of the National Federation of the Blind, to front-line soldiers in the movement who, through their teachings, their hard work, and their love, have made substantial contributions to the progress of the blind toward equality and first-class citizen-

ship.

The Jacobus tenBroek Award is not necessarily presented each year. Rather it is to be given only so often as one of our own has earned it.

This year the Award Committee has identified and selected such an individual. It is difficult to find a Federationist who has demonstrated more public spirit, more zeal for the cause, or more unselfish dedication to the movement than tonight's award winner. Both in the movement and out, this individual is a leader with capacity, a citizen with conviction and a fighter with determination.

Tonight's recipient has been a member of the National Federation of the Blind for many years, and he has also found time to be active in church and civic organizations. His hard work at the local, state, and national levels demonstrates the fact that election to high office makes no difference in terms of dedication, commitment, or sacrifice. This individual has represented our national office at state conventions since 1968.

He has assisted affiliates throughout the nation. In 1975 and 1976, as a volunteer in the movement, he wrote all of the briefs and did other legal work necessary to secure the right of blind sheltered shop employees to unionize. Starting in 1976, he challenged the insurance industry in America and represented the Federation in our effort to eliminate discrimination against the blind in the sale of insurance. In 1978 he accepted a new challenge—to help stamp out employment discrimination against the blind which had become flagrant within the Social Security Administration.

In 1984 this dedicated Federationist and his family moved to Alaska where he now directs that state's orientation center for blind adults. By now I am sure most of you know that tonight's recipient is Jim Omvig.

In a feature news story dated June 1st, 1986, an Anchorage Daily News reporter wrote, "If ever there was a role model suited to his task, Jim Omvig is the man...." He works hard and expects no less of his students.

When Mr. Omvig assumed the directorship of Alaska's Sensory Impairment Center on October 15, 1984, he found an agency which was underdeveloped. It had few staff, little funding, and no facility in which blind people could receive the kind of training which they have the right to expect. Today, little more than a year and a half later, the agency is fully funded and fully staffed. And it has a new facility which any state could point to with pride. I had the pleasure of participating in the dedication ceremony last November along with Alaska's Governor and our own Federation leaders in Alaska. Also, the Sensory Impairment Center has changed its name to the Louise Rude Center for Blind and Deaf Adults, and it is now a totally separate entity rather than a part of a much larger umbrella agency. The future is bright with promise for the blind of Alaska.

Fellow Federationists, I am proud to have the opportunity to present the 1986 Jacobus tenBroek Award to this frontline soldier in the movement, to our distinguished colleague and our friend, Jim Omvig.

Mr. Omvig, I now present you with this engraved plaque which reads:

National Federation of the Blind

JACOBUS tenBROEK AWARD

Presented to

JAMES H. OMVIG

July 3, 1986

For your dedication, commitment and sacrifice on behalf of the blind of this nation. Your contributions must be measured not in steps, but by miles; not by individual experiences but by your impact on the lives of the blind of this generation. Whenever we have asked, you have answered. We call you our colleague with respect; we call you our friend with love.

BLINDNESS: THE COMING OF THE THIRD GENERATION

An Address Delivered By

KENNETH JERNIGAN

President, National Federation of the Blind

At the Banquet of the Annual Convention

Kansas City, Missouri, July 3, 1986

"Go, sir," said Napoleon to an aide. "Gallop! And don't forget that the world was made in six days. You can ask me for anything you like except time."

"Time," said Sir Walter Scott, "will rust the sharpest sword, Time will consume the strongest cord; That which molders hemp and steel, Mortal arm and nerve must feel."

T. S. Eliot said: "Time present and time past are both perhaps present in

time future, and time future is contained in time past."

Plato said, "Time is the image of eternity"; and Pythagoras said, "Time is the soul of the world."

Sir Francis Bacon said, "What we call the age of antiquity is, in reality, the youth of the world. These times are the ancient times, when the world is ancient, and not those which we call ancient by a computation backward from ourselves."

The progress of a people toward



President Jernigan and President-Elect Maurer stood together on the platform at the conclusion of the banquet to speak to delegates.



The 1986 banquet was one of the largest in Federation history.

civilization can probably best be measured by the degree to which it is concerned with time. Primitive cultures treat time casually, day slipping into day and season into season with grand imprecision; but when the calendar comes, medicine and mathematics come—and soon come poetry, art, and compassion.

Mathematics and concepts of time are, of course, involved in the making of terrible weapons and vicious systems of torture and control, but the urge to kill and the compulsion to maim are not products of science and learning. Exactly the opposite. They come from earlier times and are softened by technology and civilization. While it is true that Adolph Hitler tortured Jews, it is equally true that Good King Richard in Medieval England did likewise. His agents, on one occasion, rounded up all the Jews they could find, locked them in a large building, set it on fire, and burned it. Yet, King Richard was regarded as good and universally admired, while Hitler was regarded as evil and universally condemned. The difference can be found in the culture. In the Middle Ages King Richard's behavior was so commonplace as to go without remark; in the twentieth century, only 700 years later, Hitler's behavior (in many respects the same behavior) was so noteworthy as to provoke worldwide outrage and revulsion.

Time is not only a yardstick of civilization but also a dimension of intelligence. Viewed in the present, intelligence is three dimensional. To the extent one can change the environment, to the extent (when this is not possible) one can adapt to the environment, and to the extent one knows when

to do which—to that extent one is intelligent. When time is added, we have the fourth dimension, and we call it maturity. To the extent one ranges backward in time to understand the causes of present conditions, and to the extent one ranges forward to anticipate future consequences of present acts, one is mature. Maturity is intelligence in depth.

The National Federation of the Blind was founded in 1940. I joined in 1949, during the first decade of the movement. In the 1950's (the second decade of the movement) I became a state president and a national board member. In the 1960's (the third decade of the movement) our founder, Dr. tenBroek, died; and I was elected President. In the 1970's (the fourth decade of the movement) I began conducting regular leadership seminars; we achieved the goal of having chapters and affiliates in every state; and I moved from Des Moines to Baltimore to establish the National Center for the Blind. In the 1980's (the fifth decade of the movement) I was present with many of you at a convention (the one last year in Louisville) attended by over 2,000 registered delegates. It was the largest gathering of blind people ever held in the history of the world. At the present convention (in 1986) I cease being President. Let me, then, from the vantage of the years, talk to you about our movement.

I attended my first National Federation of the Blind convention in 1952. I have never missed one since, so this is my thirty-fifth consecutive convention. What shall I say to you on this last night of my presidency—what that I have not already said many times before? Perhaps we should test the fourth dimen-

sion of our intelligence by ranging backward and forward in time. This is 1986. The Federation is forty-six years old. Let us divide that time into two twenty-three-year periods and consider each of them. Let us also consider the next twenty-three years. What will it be like for the blind and for this organization in the year 2009? What will the new century bring?

When the National Federation of the Blind came into being in 1940, the situation was about as bleak as it could possibly be. It was good enough to make the blind hope, and bad enough to kill the hope. Those few who broke out of the system to gain recognition and success did not, for the most part, really break out of the system at all. Their failure can be summarized in a single false concept: "I have made it on my own, without any help from anybody." They shunned other blind people—pretending not to think about blindness at all and dismissing the subject (when they could not avoid it) with so-called "humor" or embarrassment. They made an outward show (reinforced by family and friends) of being superior and not like other blind people. Simultaneously they had an inner fear (in fact, at times a certainty) that they were exactly like other blind people—at least, exactly like what they thought blind people were like—just as inferior, just as dependent, and just as inadequate. They felt complimented when a sighted person said: "You do things so well that I forget you are blind and think of you as being just like the rest of us." I say this not to condemn those blind people (indeed, some of them are still with us) but to catalog their behavior. Not censure but understanding

is required.

Most of the apparently "successful" pre-1940 blind people were taken over by the agencies and placed in positions of high visibility, either on the staff or the board. If their function had been to guide or oversee, the results could have been healthy and constructive, but the time was not right, the perspective not sufficient, the culture not ready. As it was, the "successful" blind of that day were (for the most part) fronts and puppets for the agencies. Those who did not join the agencies tended to shun their fellow blind. That some of them neither succumbed to the agencies nor tried to hide in sighted society is a greater testimonial to their spirit and maturity than has usually been recognized.

From the ranks of such as these came the founders of our movement. When Dr. Jacobus tenBroek and the handful who joined with him organized the National Federation of the Blind in 1940, they did what every minority does on its road to freedom. They shifted emphasis from the few to the many, from enhancement to basics. In the pre-1940 era those who thought about blindness at all (the blind as well as the sighted) put their major effort into helping the gifted and promoting the exceptional. The Federation took a different course. It started with the premise that until there are food, decent clothing, and adequate shelter, there can be no meaningful rehabilitation, real opportunity, or human dignity. It was not that the few or the superior were to be neglected but rather a recognition that none can be free as long as any are enslaved. The Federation's top priority in the early 1940's was to get (not as charity

but as a right) sufficient public assistance to provide a basic standard of living for the blind who had no way to provide for themselves.

There was something else: The Federation said that the blind had the right to speak for themselves through their own organization and that no other group or individual (regardless of how well-intentioned) could do it for them—whether public agency, private charity, blind person prominent in the community, or blind person heading an agency. The right was exclusive, and only those elected by the blind could speak for the blind. The test was not blindness, and it was certainly not connection with an agency. Instead, it was representative democracy and self-determination. That is what we stood for in 1940; that is what we stand for today; and that is what we will stand for in the year 2009. From the beginning there has been opposition to this concept—from members of the general public, who have feared and misunderstood blindness; from some of the blind themselves, who have clung to the security of custody and care; and especially from many of the governmental and private agencies, who have felt a vested interest in keeping us passive and seeing that we remain dependent. But on this principle there can be no compromise. It is the bedrock of Federationism. We want no strife or confrontation, but we will do what we have to do. We are simply no longer willing to be second-class citizens.

As the decade of the 1940's advanced and drew to a close, the blind in growing numbers joined the Federation and learned to work together for common good. As the 1950's came and went, we were well on the way to realizing our

goal of basic support for the blind who had neither the means nor the opportunity to do for themselves. By 1963 (the end of the first twenty-three years) rehabilitation and job opportunities were emerging as the top priority. The ranks of the first generation of Federationists were thinning, and the blind of the second generation were advancing through the lines to take up the banner and carry it forward.

In the 1940's, when the National Federation of the Blind was young and weak, and when the agencies still hoped to subvert or ignore it, there was relatively little conflict. By the 1950's the situation was different. The agencies launched an all-out attack in an effort completely to destroy our movement and discredit its leaders. By the 1960's the agencies were in full line of battle, and the blind of the second generation stood forth to meet them. It need only be said that we did not die and that we are stronger today than we have ever been. We have never wanted strife or confrontation, but we will do what we have to do. We are simply no longer willing to be second-class citizens.

In 1963 we were still concerned with securing subsistence for needy blind persons (as, indeed, we are today), but that battle was well on the way to being won. Our focus now broadened to include a prime emphasis on rehabilitation. We sought education, training, jobs, and career advancement—and not just through government but through private means and, increasingly, through our own initiative.

As the 1960's advanced and the 1970's and the early 1980's came and went, our focus again broadened, and our emphasis

once more shifted. Now, in 1986, we are still concerned with adequate subsistence and with jobs commensurate with ability, but the agencies are no longer as important in our lives as they once were, and we are devoting increasing attention to the civil rights and full realization of citizenship which the founders of our movement originally envisioned as the long range goal. We who are blind are like all of the rest. When we are hungry, we want to eat; and until that need is satisfied, we have difficulty thinking about very much else. But food is not enough. As I have said, we are like all of the rest. After we have eaten, we want jobs and useful occupation—just like the rest. And after food and jobs, we want equal participation and human dignity—just like the rest. It was the task of the first generation of our movement to deal with hunger; it has been the task of the second generation to deal with jobs; it will be the task of the third generation to deal with civil rights.

As we survey our situation in 1986, looking back to the founding and forward to the new century, how far have we come and what still remains to be done? My first response is that we have come a long way, probably farther than any of us would have thought possible in the time we have had to do it. My second response is that we still have a long way to go. It is as simple and as complex as a conversation I recently had while riding a train. The sleeping car attendant was a woman, and she was neither as tall nor as physically strong as I. She was having trouble reaching high enough and at the same time applying pressure enough to turn a lock to move a partition. I asked her to give

me the wrench, and I turned it for her. She was willing to accept the assistance and seemed grateful to have it, but as she was leaving, she asked if I wanted a wheelchair when we got to the station. Twenty-three years ago she would probably not have been permitted to have the job, and I would probably not have been permitted to help with the wall.

Twenty-three years ago the battle we are having today with the airlines would have been unthinkable—and in 2009 (twenty-three years in the future) I believe it will be equally unthinkable. In the early 1960's comparatively few blind people were traveling, and the battle for civil rights was still largely ahead—at least for the rank and file, for the average blind person. Twenty-three years in the future (unless we and the blind of the third generation totally default on our responsibilities) the airline battle will long since have been won.

It is not just workers in the transportation industry who misunderstand or block our progress. As we have learned to our cost, our battle for freedom and first-class status is not helped but made more difficult by the actions of many of the governmental and private agencies established to give us service. Earlier this year a top official of the American Printing House for the Blind answered an inquiry concerning the Braille edition of the Lutheran Book of Worship. He said: "The only source for this book which I know of is the Fortress Church Supply Store of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We produce the Lutheran Book of Worship for Fortress Press. The reason for the handwritten ink numbers is so that sighted people can pull the pages which are going to be

used in a particular worship service so that the blind reader does not have to search through the book for the pages."

The picture which this conjures up is not very hopeful. One would think that the blind person who is able to read the hymn from the Braille page might also have the dexterity and initiative to read the number from the Braille page—and might prefer to do it. The scene is not hard to imagine. The custodialism is virtually total. The sighted keeper opens the book to the appropriate page, places it on the blind person's lap, and says: "Here it is. Sing it." The interchange would probably make most of us in this room feel more like swearing than praying.

But bad as this is, it fades into insignificance when compared with the behavior of Guide Dogs for the Blind, Incorporated, of San Rafael, California. Toni Gardiner is a mature, self-sufficient adult, who holds a responsible job and leads a busy life. When she applied to the San Rafael school for a guide dog, she was (to say the least) not pleased with the response she got. It was not that they rejected her application, for they did not. It was the proposed contract and accompanying material which caused the trouble. Perhaps the best way to demonstrate the nature of the problem is to review with you a document entitled: "Suggested List of Items You Will Need for Your Four-Week Stay With Us." You will have no trouble understanding why Toni Gardiner was unhappy. Here is what Guide Dogs for the Blind sent her:

CLOTHING:

low-heeled walking shoes (not new)
slacks, jeans, skirts or dresses

shorts (warm weather)
tops or blouses
dress or pantsuit for graduation and

Sundays
shoes for graduation and Sundays
heavy sweater or jacket
heavy coat, optional
scarf or warm hat
gloves
slip
bras
underpants
girdle
pantyhose
socks or knee highs
pajamas or nightgown
robe and slippers
raincoat and rainhat

(Oct.-April classes)
rainboats (Oct.-April classes)
swimming suit and cap
(May-Nov. classes)

OTHER ESSENTIALS:

comb
brush (for hair and clothes)
toothbrush
toothpaste
shampoo and conditioner
deodorant
hair spray
kleenex
sanitary pads
usual medicines (aspirin,
laxatives, prescriptions, etc.)
shower cap (we have showers only)
Diabetics only: one month supply
of insulin, needles, syringes.
Do not pre-measure insulin.
stationery (some addressed envelopes)
For smokers: Two-week supply
of cigarettes

MEDICAL COVERAGE CARD OR PAPERS

All I can say is this: Maybe the arrangements are made by the same people who find the appropriate page of the hymn book and say: "Here it is. Sing it." Maybe the guide dog officials say: "Here it is. Wear it." Be that as it may, Toni Gardiner wasn't having any. In a letter to me she said: "I have never been an agency person and resent many of the clauses in the San Rafael contract."

Her letter to the school was straight to the point. It said:

This is to inform you that I am withdrawing my application for a guide dog from Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc...

I have been a guide dog user for the past seventeen years and have had only two dogs during that time. Both worked until death claimed them...

...Your school's custodial attitude is revealed and reflected in your suggested clothing list. Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., is providing a service for adult blind people...Your clothing list is so patronizing as to list sanitary napkins as a necessary item for the month's stay. Do you presume that blind women need such specific information?

I have purchased a Golden Retriever and am paying an ex-Guiding Eyes trainer to train her for me. Although this is a costly proposition, it frees me from having to deal with an institution that assumes that I am a mentally deficient blind person who must be cared for by the "professionals" in the field of guide dog work. Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., has a good reputation for turning out well-trained dogs. The time has come to modernize your condescending thinking and to realize that you are providing a service for blind adults who

do not require custodial care.

The attitude of Guide Dogs for the Blind of San Rafael is not unique, and it is not limited to the agencies which work with the blind. It is widely pervasive throughout society. Under date of July 1, 1985, the Project Coordinator for the National Council of Teachers of English wrote to me asking that I send material about blindness so that English teachers throughout the country could help their students learn proper attitudes. Naturally I was pleased. However, my enthusiasm was considerably dampened when she went on to say that she felt it was important for the children to learn compassion while they were young.

Then, there is a booklet which came to me last summer in which the author (a woman who is partially blind) described her limitations. She said: "Everything takes more time and effort, plus five pairs of glasses in a flower pot—a small price for independence. Some things I can't do, like distinguishing traffic lights, cutting my toenails, or recognizing a face except when close up. I've learned to accept limitations."

The problem, of course, is the mixture of fact and foolishness. She is right: She cannot visually recognize a face, but if she listens, she can determine the flow of traffic and, therefore, know when the traffic light changes. As to cutting her toenails, most of us (including the totally blind) have done it since we were children. The overall message attempts to be witty, comes off as only "cute," and is totally false.

In September of 1985 members of the Baltimore Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind went to a local

t.v. station to take part in an audience participation talk show. They wanted to make an announcement about our annual walk-a-thon. In order to make such announcements an organization must bring at least twenty people so that there will be a large audience. On this particular day the guests were a pilot, a flight attendant, and a fired air traffic controller. Questions from the audience were encouraged. Therefore, since the topic was air safety, one of our members raised her hand. The producer approached a sighted member of the group to ask whether he or some other sighted person could speak for the blind and present their questions. The producer was referred to Patricia Maurer, who insisted that the blind be allowed to speak for themselves and ask their own questions. The producer said he was afraid to have a blind person walk to the microphone, and (despite protests from the group) he refused to let them speak. During the program the cameras showed the faces of other sections of the audience but only the backs of the blind. Finally the producer undertook to ask the question for the blind himself. I probably do not need to tell you that the question was watered down and poorly stated. In such an atmosphere our public service announcement was a mockery.

The occurrences I have cited are not isolated but typical. They happen every day. A random list from the last few months makes the point. A woman writes to say that she has devised a way for the blind to play bingo without stress. An inventor wants us to promote a special stair rail for the blind. A corporation writes to ask what kind of hotels should be built for the blind. A

court takes a baby from its blind mother and refuses to give it back unless she will agree to feed it in a highchair instead of on her lap, the argument being that the highchair will foster independence while the lap will be messy. A blind woman in the District of Columbia, being arrested for disorderly conduct while under the influence, is taken not to the local jail but to the local mental hospital. A pamphlet on diseases of the eye says that people with macular degeneration cannot safely boil an egg. A prosecutor tells a judge in Missouri that the accused is obviously lying about being blind since his neighbors have observed him playing cards, mowing his lawn, and repairing his porch. A Sioux City blood bank refuses to let a blind man sell his blood, claiming that U. S. Department of Agriculture regulations prevent it. And, then, there is the letter I received from a man from Colorado. He said he was facing a moral dilemma. He had made a contribution to our organization to help disseminate information to the blind, but now he was having second thoughts. He wondered whether he had done the right thing. Maybe, he said, the day's news should be withheld from the blind in their own best interest.

What a dismal catalog! Yet, with all of the discrimination and lack of opportunity, the blind have never had it so good. We are better off today than we have ever been—and the best is still ahead. I have a faith amounting to certainty that during the next generation we will go most of the rest of the way to full participation and equal status in society.

But in view of the fact that the National Federation of the Blind is

forty-six years old and that the problems I have discussed still exist in such massive proportion, how can I feel such confidence? Here is where we need the fourth dimension of our intelligence. Progress always begins slowly. It takes time to create an organizational structure, train leaders, and recruit members. That groundwork is now behind us. We have an organizational structure second to none in the world, and we have leaders to match it. We have tens of thousands of knowledgeable members who know what they want and what they must do to get it. The reason we now hear more about the problems I have discussed than we did earlier in the century is not because there is more repression or exclusion at the present time than there was forty-six or twenty-three years ago. There is far less. It is simply that we are more aware of it and more prepared and able to do something about it.

Today we are winning on virtually every front. A little over a month ago forty-four United States Senators sent a letter on our behalf to Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole concerning the airline problem—and this is not remarkable but symptomatic. We are receiving favorable press coverage; blind persons are finding new jobs; and our members are increasingly participating in public affairs and running for elective office.

But there is something else—something even more basic—something which causes the optimism, gladdens the heart and quickens the spirit for the battles ahead. It is the underlying reason for the confidence and certainty. It is contained in what I said to you at last year's banquet. It is this:

"We say we are as good as the sighted, able to compete with them on terms of equality. We say that we deserve all of the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship and that we are capable of exercising them. We say that it is respectable to be blind. When the time comes that a majority of us know for a certainty within ourselves that these things are true (know it so surely that we act and live it every day and do not even need to think about it or question it), our battle will largely be won."

That is what I said to you last year, and there is mounting evidence that the time I spoke of is at hand. The long years of struggle and preparation are bearing fruit. At first our philosophy was only understood by a few of the leaders, and it seemed to have little application in the daily lives of the rank and file—but year after year, on an ever-widening basis, it was discussed, assimilated, and internalized. Now, Federationism is an integral part of the bodies and souls of tens of thousands of blind Americans. It is personal, compelling, and alive.

A few weeks ago a Federationist from Pennsylvania wrote a letter which brings it all together. He is Terry McManus, who is at this convention. Terry is a quiet man. He does not seek confrontation, but when he was faced with decision, he found that it was easier to endure abuse and public humiliation than to go back to custodialism and second-class status. As you listen to Terry's letter, remember that (though he was in a crowd) he was alone. Nobody would have known if he had ducked the issue or betrayed his principles—but he would

have known. He had done it before, but this time he could not. Without ever being aware of it he had crossed an invisible line to become irreversibly a new person. This is what we mean when we say: We know who we are, and we will never go back.

In what happened to Terry, and in his reaction to it, liberation takes tangible form. Diane McGeorge, Mike Hingson, Judy Sanders, Russell Anderson, and numerous other Federationists faced incidents of harassment and bullying on airplanes; and they resisted as best they could—sometimes standing their ground, sometimes ultimately bowing to the pressure, but always undergoing attack and humiliation. We wrote about their experiences in the Braille Monitor, and (at national conventions, at state and local meetings, and individually) we discussed what was happening to them. Each of us wondered what we would do if our time came—and the process of internalization continued. Going home from last year's convention (fresh from the discussions and the reinforcement) Steve and Nadine Jacobson found it better to go to jail (with all of the accompanying indignities) than to bend the knee and behave like slaves or wards. Their experience was written about and discussed—and Jim Moynihan, Mary Ellen Reihing, Jacquilyn Billey, Ramona Walhof, Peggy Pinder, Marc Maurer, Steve Hastalis, and countless others listened and thought and took courage. And when their time came, they remembered and were strengthened—and they, in their turn, gave example and courage to others.

When Terry McManus rode on a city bus and the driver and the other passengers

tried to make him play the part of the helpless blind man, he remembered—and refused. Here is his letter:

I am writing to relate a blatant incident of discrimination which occurred against me on Tuesday, January 14, 1986. I think you will find it strikingly similar to the outrages blind people have experienced at the hands of airline officials.

On that afternoon at about 5:15 I boarded a standing-room-only Port Authority Transit Bus. Just as I stepped through the door, the driver shouted, "Handicapped passenger; give him a seat." I explained to him that blindness did not in any way limit my ability to stand, that I had good balance and preferred to stand. At this he became quite irate and proclaimed that if I didn't immediately take a seat, he would not move the bus. I calmly told him that I would continue to stand. He began apologizing to the passengers for the inconvenience I was causing them. Then, he spotted a supervisor on the street and got off to consult with him. Meanwhile, the other passengers began bitterly attacking me, calling me "crazy," "inconsiderate," "ignorant," "arrogant," and a few other things which are not printable. One man sarcastically said that he hoped I would sleep well that night. I tried to explain to them that it was not I, but the driver, who was inconveniencing them, and that it was a matter of discrimination and a violation of my civil rights that was involved. They didn't want to listen and grew angrier. I was frightened but knew that I had to continue standing.

You see, this was not the first time I

had been harassed by a bus driver in this manner. It had happened a number of times in the past, and on each occasion I sat down after a violent argument. Each time I was embarrassed and humiliated and felt that I had sold out my blind brothers and sisters, who were courageously battling similar discriminatory actions. The last time it happened I promised myself that it would never happen again.

The driver returned with the supervisor, who said he concurred with the driver's decision not to move the bus if I didn't sit. I told him I would stand. He said the seats in the front of the bus were reserved for handicapped persons. I told him I was not handicapped in my ability to stand. I said that if I was breaking some law, he should have me arrested and that if I was not, he should order the driver to move the bus. He obviously knew that I wasn't doing anything wrong because he did not call the police. He said there was an empty bus behind the one I was on and that I could get on that one and sit without feeling that I was being discriminated against. I said I would stay where I was. The driver and the supervisor conferred a bit longer and then decided to take all of the other passengers off the bus and put them on the one behind. They all filed past me, continuing to pour out abuse and make disparaging comments, until only an elderly woman and I remained on board. She explained that she was not able to stand on the other bus. The driver went to see if there was space and returned to report that there was room but that he didn't want to inconvenience the passengers by asking one of them to stand for her. How ironic! He created a major incident

by harassing a blind person who was perfectly capable of standing but would not ask passengers to stand for someone with a legitimate reason for requiring a seat. Finally, another bus came, and the elderly woman left.

The supervisor returned, and he and the driver continued to badger me with excuses for their actions:

Since, as the supervisor put it, I didn't have the "privilege of seeing," I wouldn't know when people wanted to get past me and thus would create an obstruction. (They obviously had no trouble filing past me to get to the other bus.)

People are crazy and might knock me down. (I weigh close to 200 pounds, so that is not likely.)

I was standing too close to the driver and obstructing his view. (Other people were standing as close to him as I was, and I would have been happy to move; but the bus was jammed, and there was nowhere to go.)

I had been standing there for about thirty minutes and was beginning to fear that I would spend the rest of the evening on that bus, being badgered to sit—or something even worse. Finally, believe it or not, they decided to take the bus out of service for the general public and drive me to my stop. In retrospect I guess that this is no more unbelievable than cancelling a flight to get rid of a blind passenger. Of course, I continued to stand as we drove to my stop.

The driver went on harassing me about what an ignorant and inconsiderate person I was. I again repeated that it was a question of civil rights. I explained that this was just a small part of a large pattern of discrimination faced by

blind people every day. He said that, as a black man, he had been facing discrimination for four hundred years—but of course this was different since sitting down would have in no way prevented me from reaching my destination. I explained that this was precisely the argument used against blacks who dared to object to being forced to sit at the back of the bus, but he refused to see my point. I told him that all of the employers, landlords, insurance carriers, airline officials, and other service providers who practice discrimination feel that their situations are also "different." He informed me that if he ever saw me waiting for a bus again, he would pass me up, and he hoped and anticipated that other drivers would do the same. He further stated that I might have "signed my own death warrant," because the passengers I had inconvenienced would remember me and take action against me on the street. I asked for his bus number, and he sarcastically replied that I should "go out and look at it." Finally, we reached the stop, and I bade him good day. He said I had already ruined it.

As I began walking up the hill toward my home, the shock began to take full effect, and I felt badly shaken by the brutal and dehumanizing treatment I had just received. At the same time I was grateful that my involvement in the National Federation of the Blind had given me the courage to endure such an experience—not only for myself but for all blind people. I was also grateful for the hard work of the members of the National Federation of the Blind of Pennsylvania in securing passage of the amendments to our state's human relations act, which outlaws this type of

behavior. I determined to file complaints with both the city and state human relations commissions, requesting the following relief: 1) The Port Authority be required to issue a clear policy statement indicating that its drivers may not order blind passengers to be seated on buses when no seats are available and when other passengers are permitted to stand, and that drivers may not in any way treat blind passengers differently from others; 2) The driver be required to publish in the newspaper a public apology for his abusive behavior; and 3) the Port Authority be required to pay me fifteen hundred dollars in personal damages.

I also decided to bring the matter to the attention of the media. The story received coverage on radio, television, and in the press with varying degrees of support. At first the Port Authority refused to comment, saying that I had threatened legal action. (I never made such a statement to them.) Later they began to claim that I had refused to stand anywhere but in the front of the bus and that I was obstructing the driver's view. (As I have already said, this is not the truth.) The company refused to have a representative appear on camera, but they issued a written statement to the media which claimed that their policy was that elderly and handicapped passengers could stand on buses, provided that they did not interfere with the operation of the bus. In the opinion of the driver, I had done just that. Later, on a call-in talk show, the president of their board of directors indicated that it was the company's policy that handicapped passengers be required to sit. This further demonstrates the need for a

clear policy statement. About two weeks later their director of public relations appeared on a talk show, gave a total fabrication of the incident, and poked fun at me.

Thus far, the pain I have suffered has borne some fruit. I have been on several buses since then where the drivers have allowed me to stand. They may have learned something.

People with whom I have discussed this matter are surprised that I was willing to pay such a large price for such a small privilege. One friend observed that I was "all alone on that bus." I explained to him that I was not alone, that there were more than 50,000 people standing shoulder to shoulder with me as I bore the indignities—people like Judy Sanders, Russell Anderson, the Jacobsons, and Mike Hingson—and I was with them when they faced their ordeals. As I read the recent account of what happened to Jim Moynihan, I heard once again the ridicule of the passengers ringing in my ears. We all continue to derive strength from the collective pain, and love is our motivating force. My sympathy goes out to those blind people who have not had the courage and perception to stand with us. By daring to stand and fight together, we insure eventual triumph. Some day all of this will be a thing of the past.

Yours in Federationism,
TerryMcManus

To me this letter symbolizes the coming together of the second and the third generations of our movement. As we range backward in time to understand the causes of today's conditions, and as we range forward to anticipate the consequences of our present acts, the

experience of Terry McManus and all of the others I have mentioned is pivotal. We have assimilated and internalized the philosophy of our movement, and no force on earth can stay our progress.

I leave the Presidency of this organization knowing that our movement has come of age and is fully mature. Make no mistake: We will go the rest of the way to freedom. I know it as surely as I know that the blind are as competent as others. I know it as surely as I know that the sighted are capable of accepting us as the equals we are. We of the second generation of the movement have kept faith with the first generation. We have treasured the heritage, expanded the opportunities, resisted custodialism, fought where we could with the weapons we have had to advance the cause, supported each other, nurtured our fellow blind, and sacrificed and planned for the future. We have also kept faith with our children, the third generation. We have transmitted to them a powerful movement. We have trained them in the ways of freedom. We have shared with them our beliefs and our understanding. We have wanted better for them than we have had for ourselves. And, above all, we have loved them. We do not seek to make them like us, for in our strongest imaginings we cannot go to the house of their ultimate tomorrow. We seek only to go with them as far as we can on the way.

At this convention we have elected a new president. Marc Maurer will make a good president. He will lead with a firm hand, and he will lead with love and maturity. My brothers and my sisters, come! Let us move together into the third generation of the movement.



Terry McManus, President of the National Federation of the Blind of Pennsylvania holds his head high and walks with independence.



The blind can function on competitive terms in the world of today's technology. Curtis Chong, President of the National Federation of the Blind in Computer Science, practices what he preaches on a daily basis in his job at American Express/IDS in Minneapolis.

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS

Grinnell, Iowa
July 10, 1986

Dear Dr. Jernigan:

Here is a transcription of the 1986 scholarship presentation at our banquet on July 3, 1986. The presentation ceremony and, indeed, the entire scholarship program are an important part of our annual convention and of our year round array of programs and services to assist blind people. This year over 400 men and women applied for Federation scholarships.

Of course, you know that I received a Federation scholarship myself just after earning a Bachelor's Degree and while on my way to Yale Law School. I thoroughly enjoy giving the scholarship awards each year to America's finest blind students. Even more, I enjoy meeting and getting to know these students at convention. In addition to the scholarship grants earned by each winner, the Federation gives an added grant to each winner to cover the costs of expenses to attend the convention, and the twenty-four men and women spend a week with us. This gives us the chance to meet and evaluate the personal qualities of each before we make our final awards. We choose the 24 winners but do not specify who wins which award until the evening before the banquet. It also gives the convention an opportunity to meet and congratulate these outstanding people.

The winners themselves benefit from the convention scholarship in countless ways. Many come to convention needing desperately to learn how to get around as a blind person in unfamiliar surroundings. Many have not yet left their

homes or have spent their lives between home and a limited area on a campus. We teach them what we can in a week about getting around anywhere. The principles of independent travel and the certainty that one can travel independently can be learned in this time and many learn them. Many of the students have never before met a blind person employed in the field they intend to enter. There are endless discussions about techniques which will aid in study and future employment and numberless suggestions, warnings, and advice about how to handle the questions and doubts which will inevitably be raised by professors or potential employers. Most of all, the winners receive a different perspective on blindness itself since they are immersed for a week in an active, purposeful, successful organization founded and administered by blind people. After such a week, the only possible conclusion a blind person can draw deep down in the soul is that blind people are competent, capable, and assertive—able to accomplish what they put their minds and wills to achieving.

I know the power of such a message. Every blind person does. Every blind person reaches a point in life where blindness must be confronted directly. Many students (particularly the high school students of whom we had so many this year) have spent their lives among friends who almost unconsciously take great pains to protect them from the true handicap of blindness—artificial limitations and barriers imposed on the

blind by persons who do not believe in the capacity of blind persons. But every blind person eventually meets this prejudice and must come to recognize it, work around it, and seek to change it.

We do this together in the National Federation of the Blind. The twenty-four scholarship winners have now been given this tremendous resource of knowledge and skill and commitment that is the Federation. I was once given the same gift. It is a pleasure and an honor to give it on to others.

During the scholarship presentation at

the banquet, I read from text, read from notes, and extemporize. I have collected my text, my notes, and my recollections of the presentation ceremony one week ago. As best I can, I have provided you with a transcription of the words spoken then. No transcript can convey the excitement and gratitude and spirit of togetherness shared by the winners and the entire convention assembled at our banquet. One must attend to appreciate it. These winners were lucky indeed to attend as honored guests.

Sincerely yours,
Peggy Pinder, Chairman
N.F.B. Scholarship Committee

**REMARKS BY PEGGY PINDER AT
THE ANNUAL BANQUET
OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND**

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

July 3, 1986

The National Federation of the Blind conducts its business in full knowledge that time is the fourth dimension. In 1940, when those seven state organizations came together to form this national movement, they acted in the faith that the entire blind community would one day be united and strong. They knew that dedication and hard work over time would bring their dreams into reality. We've known it ever since.

That is why we say that we never lose a war: We simply won't quit until we win. This is what the airlines have not yet understood. They don't know that determination over time grows and

spreads. They don't understand that they will lose. Our conviction in final victory is our greatest strength.

The dimension of time is important in the lives of individuals just as it is in life of an organization. Men and women who continue their study after high school are dreamers, too. They are gathering skills and laying groundwork for the rest of their lives. Their lives are as yet mostly potential.

The Federation believes in dreaming, in aspiring to do what others say we cannot, then buckling down and putting in the hard work that makes it all come true. And we believe in helping others

to dream, aspire, and work. That's why we've established our scholarship program and funded it with nearly \$100,000 of our treasure. We want to reward the dreamers who are workers. We are already part of their lives, for the work of the Federation since 1940 has changed forever what it means to be blind in this country and built the foundation on which all students of today build their lives. To you who are scholarship winners we say: "We've always been a part of your dreams and your successes, whether you knew it or not. Tonight, we honor your success and our own and look forward with you into the bright future we have created together."

We have twenty-four scholarship winners this year. It gives me great pleasure to present them to you, one by one, to receive their awards.

(As each winner's name was called, the winner came onto the platform, received a certificate, and received congratulations from our President, Dr. Jernigan.)

The Melva T. Owen Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,800 was awarded to Mark J. Baxter of Vermont. Mark was recently graduated from high school in Moretown, Vermont and will be starting at Dartmouth in the fall, where he will be studying computer science.

Nine National Federation of the Blind Merit Scholarships (in the amount of \$1,800 each) were awarded to the following people:

Roy W. DePriest—Arkansas. Roy was recently graduated from the Arkansas School for the Blind and will be a freshman in the fall at the University of Arkansas, where he hopes to earn a Master's Degree in electrical engineering.

Laura Lynn Beach Eckery—Nebraska.

Laurie is a second-year graduate student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she is working towards a Master's Degree in social work. She intends to be a psychotherapist in the mental health or family services area.

Shirley Jean Hammond—Ohio. Shirley is working toward an Associate Degree from Stark Technical College, Canton, Ohio, in the field of occupational therapy assistant. She hopes eventually to become a full occupational therapist or work elsewhere in the field of rehabilitation.

Robin Lynn Briggs Hauck—Maryland. Robin is studying at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County where she is working toward a Bachelor's Degree in social work and hopes to earn a Master's Degree.

Douglas Gregory Lee—Illinois. Doug will be a sophomore in the fall at the University of Illinois in Champaign working toward his Bachelor's Degree in the fields of mathematics, computer science, and computer engineering.

Alfred Leslie Morgan, Jr.—Mississippi. Al is completing his BA degree at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, after which he intends to enter Mississippi State University and earn a Graduate Degree in the counseling field.

Patricia Jean Stift—Missouri. Pat will be senior next year at the University of Missouri at Columbia where she is earning her BS degree in physical therapy, after which she will pursue a Master's Degree.

Edward Lawrence Timanus—Virginia. Eddie will be a freshman in the fall at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina where he intends to earn a Bachelor's Degree in economics and business administration and eventually a

Master's in business administration.

Chris T. Tromborg—California. Chris is completing a Master's Degree at California State University, San Francisco, in animal sciences and plans to enter a doctoral program in his area of interest, the enhancement of the environments of captive animals.

The Howard Brown Rickard Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 was awarded to Linda van Duyne of New York and Massachusetts. Linda was recently graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, and will be continuing her studies there in a graduate program. Her field is materials science and she hopes to teach at the university level.

Two Hermione Grant Calhoun Scholarships were given (in the amount of \$2,500 each) to the following people:

Melody Layne Lindsey—Florida. Melody will be a freshman in the fall at Stetson University in Florida. She plans to earn a law degree.

Joan Marie Taeckens—Michigan. Joan is studying toward a Master's in business administration at the School of Business Administration at the University of Michigan in Flint.

There were seven National Federation of the Blind Merit Scholarships awarded in the amount of \$2,500 each to:

Daniel Barrett—Illinois and Indiana. Dan will be a sophomore in the fall at the University of Notre Dame where he is working toward a Bachelor's Degree with double majors in chemistry and liberal studies. He intends to earn a degree in theoretical chemistry.

Stacie Leigh Cranney—Idaho and Utah. Stacie will be a freshman at Brigham Young University in Utah and began her

studies there this summer. She is studying toward her Bachelor's Degree in communications and political science and intends to earn a law degree.

Brian J. Fitzmaurice—New York. Brian will be a freshman in the fall at Syracuse University, New York, where he intends to earn a degree in computer engineering at Syracuse's College of Engineering.

Frank J. Lee—Alabama. Frank is writing his dissertation in a doctoral program at Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, while pastoring a church in Huntsville, Alabama, full time.

Deepak Tonse Pai—New Mexico and California. Deepak will be a sophomore at the University of California at Berkeley in the fall where he is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in rhetoric and plans to earn a law degree.

Cuong P. To—California. Cuong will be a senior at San Diego State and plans to go on to earn a Master's in business administration in the field of international business.

Marla Jo Willamon—Iowa. Marla is a junior at William Penn College in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where she is studying toward a Bachelor's Degree in accounting and intends to become a CPA.

Three National Federation of the Blind Merit Scholarships in the amount of \$4,000 each were presented to the following students:

Earl W. Anderson—North Dakota. Earl is a second-year law student at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks.

Scott Charles LaBarre—Minnesota. Scott will be an entering freshman at St. John's University, St. Cloud, Minnesota, in the fall where he will study



At the banquet of the 1986 convention of the National Federation of the Blind, Robert David Greenberg of New York received the ten-thousand dollar Ezra Davis Memorial Scholarship, presented by the American Brotherhood for the Blind.

toward a Bachelor's Degree in international business and relations.

Eileen Rivera—Pennsylvania. Eileen, who is from San Juan, Puerto Rico, earned a Bachelor's at Harvard and is now in her second year at the Wharton School of Finance where she is studying toward a Master's in business administration in health care administration.

The winner of the final scholarship has earned the right to speak to the convention. I will announce the scholarship and tell you about the winner who will then speak to you.

The Ezra Davis Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$10,000, presented by the American Brotherhood for the Blind, is awarded to Robert David Greenberg—New York and Connecticut. Robert earned his Bachelor of Arts' Degree at Sarah Lawrence College. He will be starting his third year in a doctoral program in the Department of Slavic Languages and literatures at Yale University. His special interest is Slavic linguistics. This scholarship will allow Robert to complete his doctoral research by studying original manuscripts in the monasteries of eastern Europe.

Robert has also studied piano for sixteen years and the entire convention has received this week the wonderful gift of his playing.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Ezra Davis Scholarship winner, Robert Greenberg. (Mr. Greenberg came to the microphone and expressed his appreciation for the scholarship. He also talked about his attitudes toward blindness and the Federation. He said in part:

"Last July when many of you were gathered in Louisville, Kentucky, for the 1985 National Federation of the Blind

convention I was still in a struggle with my blindness. I could not come to terms with many things. I did not use my cane except at night and would keep it folded up in my backpack. A good friend at the time (her name is Orna, and some of you know who she is now) told me one day: 'Why on earth don't you use your cane! You always get in so much trouble without it.'

"Since that very day I have started to use my cane and I have become more independent and more aware of what it means to be blind. In the last few days here at the convention I have, I think, fully come to terms with my blindness. I have been riding on a kind of wave of love, optimism, and good feelings all around from all of you. You feel it everywhere—in every corner of the hotel and every corner of the banquet room. I am gratefully appreciative of that. It is really at this point that I can now say that I, too, also claim the National Federation of the Blind to be my organization. One last remark that I wanted to make was that on Saturday when we all assembled (we twenty-four scholarship winners) Dr. Jernigan said something to us. He said, 'You all should be proud, for all of you are winners.'

"Standing here before you today, I want to say that I have found that each and every one of you Federationists is also a winner."

At the conclusion of Mr. Greenberg's remarks, Peggy Pinder again spoke. She said:

"As Federationists, we have always kept in mind our perspective on time. You have earned honor and received it. But we have tried our hardest to give

you something more than money, something more than honor. We have worked our hardest to give you our dreams, our conviction that, together, we can make tomorrow an even better place. We have given you the greatest gift in our keeping: our own organization.

"Blind people always needed the Federation. Blind people always dreamed of it. In time, blind people brought

the Federation into being. This week, we have given it all to you.

"Nurture it as we have nurtured it. Love it as we have loved it. Over time and working together, with your help, we can make it all come true for blind people.

"Congratulations, 1986 Scholarship winners."

FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT: OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

By Clarence Thomas

(Mr. Thomas is Chairman of the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He is also Chairman of the Interagency Committee on Handicapped Employees. He delivered the following address at the convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Kansas City on Thursday morning, July 3, 1986.)

I am pleased and honored to be here today to speak at the National Federation of the Blind of 1986. I am struck by the significance that one small word holds in your organization's name—"OF." Of the blind. This is a national federation of blind persons speaking for themselves. That fact is reflected in the special pride and independence that permeates the actions and literature of this organization and that shapes its quest towards equal and fair treatment. The quest for equality, as worthy a quest as there is, requires the special pride that you possess. This is true not only because of your opponents, but

because of those who, due to ignorance or misunderstanding, believe that they can help by deciding for blind persons what is needed by blind persons.

Too often, as you know, members of the latter group take the noble concept of equality and turn it upside down and inside out. They seek to feed with guilty handouts and compromised standards your Federation's hunger for fair treatment and simple justice. Your frustration is one that I can wholly identify with for I am black. I am part of the grand experiment having started by competing against odds and succeeding; then having my personal achievements inextricably woven in the whole cloth of racially preferential social policies. The black community marched for equality, for equal treatment, for fairness. And what we wound up with was special treatment. Special treatment resulting in lower standards and expectations for the black community. It has only served to create dependencies and

rob us of our dignity. In the past the government, sometimes with the best intentions, has ended up being the worst of offenders in this regard.

Dr. Jernigan has noted that the blind have had the same unfortunate experience, because government action has often served only to segregate blind employees from the rest of the work force through special training classes and procedures for certification of disability. However, by listening more attentively to blind persons speaking for themselves I believe that the government has begun to do better by blind persons, and will do still better in the future. I come before you today not so much out of a desire to make a speech to you but more to express, on behalf of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a willingness to listen.

As you know, at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission we are empowered to enforce the fair employment laws and, of particular importance to this audience, Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 501 was created to stop employment discrimination in the federal government against blind persons and others with disabilities. The law requires that federal employers provide adequate hiring, placement, and advancement opportunities to handicapped persons. Personally, I don't like the term "handicapped." For instance, when I came into this room today I didn't notice any handicapped persons. All I saw was a group of people who can't see. The inability to see merely requires training and opportunity. That is the attitude I believe we should take in enforcing Section 501. Unfortunately, people find it "special" to give a word

processor synthetic speech to accommodate the needs of a blind person. However, we want, we demand in fact, all kinds of accommodations for ourselves but categorize accommodations for those with different needs as special.

Although the concept of reasonable accommodation for handicapped employees is an area of concern to some people, accommodations are nothing new in an employment situation. Every time an employer purchases new equipment or functional office furniture, allows flexible working hours, coffee breaks, or provides anything that creates a more efficient or productive work place, an accommodation has been made. Providing accommodations for qualified, visually impaired employees simply means that the work-related needs of all employees will be considered. At the EEOC we are committed to ensuring that those reasonable accommodations are made. I tell my managers, if they find a qualified applicant for a job who happens to have a visual impairment, hire them. When it comes to providing money or equipment to accommodate them, that's my job, and it's not a problem.

There is nothing wrong with ensuring a place in this country's work force for the blind community. What is wrong is society's attitude toward that goal. That attitude is a product of ignorance, myths, stereotypes, and fears. And as long as these attitudes prevail, blind employees will never truly be a part of the work force, for they will not advance, they will not be given any great responsibility.

We recognize that this attitudinal problem exists within the federal government and have taken steps to ameliorate it. At EEOC, we have adopted

a program developed by the California Governors Committee for Employment of the Handicapped called "Tilting at Windmills." The goal of this program is to increase the employment of people with disabilities. The program reduces attitudinal barriers that prevent the visually impaired from obtaining meaningful employment or advancing beyond entry-level positions through eliminating fear, biases, myths, and stereotyping. "Windmills" teaches managers and executives that accommodations are not complex or necessarily expensive. It breaks down barriers between personnel, supervision, EEO and management. The Commission has required that all of its top executives and middle management personnel take this course so they may discover their own biases and conquer them. We have trained field employees in this program and sent them back to their district offices to further train Commission employees and exorcise this attitudinal barrier from our organization so that we may provide the best, consistent services for the government's physically impaired employees throughout the country.

Another major threat to the goal of equal employment opportunity for the visually impaired is the trivialization of the handicapped equal employment laws that now exist. I, personally, was appalled to see that many of the cases that come to the Commission alleging discrimination on the basis of physical impairment are filed by individuals with minor or temporary disabilities. These individuals are abusing Section 501 and may ultimately, through their frivolous claims, undermine the laws for the group which 501 was meant to benefit. For I do not believe Section 501 was created

to protect individuals suffering from left-handedness, flat feet or sprained wrists. Section 501 was designed to protect individuals with substantial impairments. Impairments such as blindness, deafness, and paralysis. If these complaints and suits are not curtailed or discouraged the capability of Section 501 to protect blind employees will be greatly reduced.

These people are using reasonable accommodation to request reassignments to light duty stations for a sprained joint, to request a change in job description and responsibilities to accommodate their minor impairment. It is these individuals who are engendering resentment and negative feeling in management to hiring, accommodating, and promoting individuals with disabilities. And who pays the price for this abuse? Ironically, the very group whom these laws were originally designed to protect, those individuals with substantial impairments.

As Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission I have worked towards invigorating Section 501 so that it will protect only those employees with substantial impairments not those individuals with minor or temporary physical problems. Stopping the trivialization of the equal employment laws for the physically impaired is a major goal of my tenure here at the EEOC. You will see a lot of significant action by the Commission on this issue in the next few years as we move towards ensuring equal opportunity in the federal work force for the visually impaired. Equal opportunity is an area where I already have taken significant action. It is an area where our two organizations are in perfect agreement.

What your organization wants is what all minorities want, what I as a black person have wanted—fairness and equal treatment. You don't want a break, you want a chance. You don't want an exception, you want an opportunity. An opportunity to perform and show your abilities, to be treated with respect and dignity. Section 501 says that the federal government and its agencies will actively hire, promote, and accommodate visually impaired individuals. It does not say that standards will be lowered to do so, that employee responsibilities will be lessened to do so, that exceptions will be made to do so. And none of these things need be done to do so. Your fight for minimum wage for sheltered workshops is a perfect example of the lower standards, and in this case salary, that have been placed on blind employees. While this is a matter subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Labor, it is an example of the "special" treatment and lower standards for persons with disabilities that hurt, rather than help the blind. I strongly believe in equal opportunity exactly as it sounds—equal opportunity. And I do not tolerate lower standards or expectations. If a blind individual wants a job in the federal government, it's my job to see that he or she gets an equal opportunity to compete for that position.

As Co-Chair of the Interagency Committee on Handicapped employees, I strive to effect the same goals I have already described to you. Since the committee is made up of several agency heads, we have the potential to bring about great change. And we rely on organizations such as the NFB to help bring to light concerns that need to be addressed. In

February of this year, the NFB did just that. Mr. James Gashel spoke to the committee and raised several concerns. In the short time that has elapsed since that meeting we have addressed some of those issues. The NFB raised the issue of promotions for physically impaired employees. Agencies that lower standards for handicapped employees serve only to deny those employees opportunities to move up in the agency since the work they are given is not of the caliber that leads to promotions. The NFB suggested that the expected appointment authority, Schedule A, be used to promote handicapped employees. In a recent standing committee meeting, OPM said there is no reason why Schedule A cannot be used for promotions and saw no need for new policy on the matter. Now, we have to get the word out to all the agencies that this is possible.

Mr. Gashel raised the problems many blind employees encounter under the current system of recruiting and retaining readers. The solution suggested is to have the blind employee substantially involved with the selection and compensation of their reader. We understand that effective accommodation can only be achieved through the joint effort of the employer and employee. Clearly, the employees must play a major role in this process for they know best what will facilitate their working environment. The ICHE plans to contact the General Services Administration about this issue in the near future.

In addition, the EEOC, in its capacity as employer, has instituted a program under which a number of employment slots are reserved for readers, personal assistants, and interpreters. Through this program the cost of hiring a reader

will be borne by the agency as a whole, just like the costs of other employee needs, rather than by the particular office that hires the applicant. Thus a system with disincentives for hiring of blind persons has been abolished at the EEOC, and a new, more just system has been put in its place.

Another issue raised regarded the lower job performance standards currently in effect for blind employees of the Social Security Administration. The suggested solution was to strictly enforce the performance standards and that is exactly what we intend to do. As a result of that meeting, Health and Human Services is investigating the Social Security Administration's standards.

Jim Gashel also expressed the Federation's concern about the way that blind persons are brought on-board in the federal government. Blind applicants either must be certified by a rehabilitation counselor, or must serve a 700-hour probationary period. The Federation's concern was that the first route created long delays that eliminated the employment opportunity where the applicant or employer could not afford to wait. Jim's suggestion was that the 700-hour probationary period be used more often. I agree that this should be done, but believe that alone it is not an adequate solution. The trial appointment forces blind persons to

serve a probationary period instead of receiving a more permanent appointment from the outset. I believe that in the long run the better solution is to make the certification process less cumbersome. Perhaps this would involve working with Vocational Rehabilitation and other service agencies to streamline the certification process. I would appreciate further recommendations, comments, and cooperation from the Federation as I seek to find, and implement, the best solution.

The Commission has come a long way since I took over. There were a lot of problems when I first arrived. But we have and are continuing to work them out. The Commission's record for enforcing the equal employment opportunity laws has increased dramatically. And while we are improving every day, we still have a way to go.

In closing, I would like to say that it is through the efforts of such active organizations as the NFB that our equal employment laws will be enforced. Organizations such as the NFB are the social conscience of our country. They make certain that the rights ensured by the laws are maintained in the spirit in which they were written. At the EEOC we recognize that and appreciate your efforts. We need an ongoing dialogue with the NFB to make sure that the choices and policies we make concerning blind federal employees are the right ones.

Thank you.

THE IMPACT OF GRAMM-RUDMAN-HOLLINGS ON THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

By Frank Kurt Cylke

(The address by Frank Kurt Cylke, Director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, has come to be a tradition at National Federation of the Blind conventions. Mr. Cylke spends several days at the convention, getting feedback from consumers and answering questions. This year he addressed the delegates on Thursday morning, July 3. Here is what he said.)

It is always a good experience to meet with the National Federation of the Blind in convention. I appreciate the opportunity and find it helpful to discuss our progress, our difficulties, and our plans with individuals who have significant experience in using the materials and various services.

This year I will address three specific points:

1. The Emergency Deficit Reduction Act of 1985—better known to us all as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act;

2. Work of the NLS Ad Hoc Publications Advisory Group; and

3. The sale of Braille books to individuals.

As you might expect the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act is the matter of most concern to all of us assembled here today.

The Library of Congress has a sizeable operating budget!

This year—FY 1986—it is \$18.3 million lower than it was in FY 1985. This is the direct result of two reduc-

tions—one a specific congressional cut and, following that, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings sequestration. The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped segment of this reduction was \$4,150,000. In fact, NLS/BPH is operating during this year on a budget of \$32,309,000—rather than on the projected \$36,459,000 required to maintain the same level of service as in FY 1985.

Such deep cuts meant reductions in every area of the budget. These affect direct service items for patrons—such as production of books, magazines, publications, and machines—and program items such as travel for consultants and for people staffing exhibits, transportation of exhibit material, staff training, monies for outside consultants and for consumer representation on committees, and even monies to purchase print books for transcribing into Braille or recording on disc and cassette.

Cuts totalling almost \$200,000 were determined in administrative areas before any reductions were considered in materials and services for patrons.

To give you a feeling for how the program was cut, I will list eleven areas and note approximate percentage reductions in those areas:

1. Travel - 10%
 2. Attendance at meetings - 9%
 3. Transportation of exhibits to meetings - 10%
 4. Printing of promotional brochures -
-

11%

5. Printing of forms - 10%
6. Training for staff - 9%
7. Use of consultants - 25%
8. Research and Development - 20%
9. Office supplies - 10%
10. Music services - 26%
11. Pamphlets and documents for free distribution - 46%

Then came reductions in funds used to produce books, magazines, and machines!

Unfortunately, because of the size of the total reduction we were forced to reduce in books—100 cassette titles; 37 press Braille titles; and, more than 100 handcopy Braille titles. Ceilings were placed on both Braille and recorded magazine subscription lists, and the machine budget was reduced by 20%.

We were also forced to close one multistate center—the one in the south.

The impact of these "bread and butter" cuts will not impact immediately. In fact, there is hope that the FY 1987 budget will be "balanced" and that a Gramm-Rudman-Hollings sequestration need not be implemented in FY 1987. If this is the case and we can receive moderate increases we possibly can restore most reductions within a reasonable period of time.

If reductions must be taken in FY 1987 I assure you that books, magazines, and machines will not be affected unless absolutely necessary. Indeed, in a worst case planning effort for a 10% sequestration in FY 1987, we have arranged not to cut in these areas, but rather to rearrange media production priorities and quantities.

As in FY 1986, I certainly will communicate with Mr. Jernigan, Marc Maurer, and other appropriate NFB staff to en-

sure that reductions fall within areas acceptable to you.

Now to a more reasonable subject—that of the Ad Hoc Publications Advisory Group. Four individuals representing consumer groups, four patron representatives, and four librarians were brought together to address four topics. (By now you have guessed that four is a magic number to Bob Fistick, head of our Publications and Media Section.) The topics for discussion were identified as

1. Publication priorities Recommendations and discussion of NLS publications focused on how to maintain our publications in useful formats while saving money and on how to prioritize publications in their perceived order of importance to the program.

2. Content changes Recommendations and discussion on content changes for both improvements and for saving money—specifically related to Talking Book Topics, Braille Book Review, and our various catalogs and bibliographies. (Talking Book Topics and Braille Book Review are the primary program publications and will remain in some form despite any further budget reductions.)

3. Prioritizing publications The group considered what should be done if NLS were forced to prioritize the value of publications? What publications should be kept? What should be eliminated, consolidated, or created? What do you consider as the most basic elements for the NLS program?

4. Possible national survey Recommendations on possible topics to be addressed in a national survey.

Following a three-day meeting, the group offered their collective recommendations. Before I mention them please know that the participants requested that implementation of any or all of the recommendations be delayed until: (1) the recommendations can be discussed at the national meeting of librarians scheduled for Cincinnati later this month; (2) members of the group representing consumer organizations have an opportunity to report to and receive comments from their constituencies; and (3) the results of the proposed survey are in and analyzed.

Recommendations

Talking Book Topics

The following immediate format changes are recommended:

1. Merge the TBT disc and the large-print full edition;
2. Eliminate disc version and replace it with a cassette version;
3. Change frequency of the publication from six to four times a year to correspond with the four seasons;
4. Do not put foreign language, juvenile books, or the magazine list in each list of TBT. Instead include foreign language books once a year and include magazines once a year. Include juvenile books twice a year. Put these items in separate issues of TBT; and
5. Use L, S, V designations with the following meanings printed at the

bottom of every other page:

L = Strong Language
S = Explicit Descriptions of Sex
V = Violence

6. Delete the contents page;
7. Delete the index;
8. Limit annotations;
9. In the audio version of TBT, do away with the "In Brief" section. However, include "Newsstand"—space permitting; and
10. Present books alphabetically by author. Further break them down by fiction, nonfiction, and format.

It is the group's belief that with these changes implemented, TBT will become a throw-away order form. It will be a hybrid of the TBT disc order form and large-print order form and should be a self-mailer. Individuals and librarians using it should have all the information necessary to order or send books. Paging back and forth between order form and annotation will be eliminated, as will the mistakes that result from doing that.

Braille Book Review

For this publication the following was recommended:

1. Publish four times a year, seasonally;
2. Eliminate the large-print edition;

3. Retain the print/Braille order form including, as it does now, RDs, RCs, etc. from TBT;
4. List books alphabetically by author;
5. Delete TBT abridged from BBR and
6. Use shorter annotations.

Priorities for Publications

In whatever format an annotation appears, whether it be print, Braille, audio, or in a catalog, it should be the same.

Publications have been ranked in this order of importance:

1. Talking Book Topics and Braille Book Review
2. Catalogs
3. Bibliographies
4. Reference Circulars
5. Newsletters
6. Music Materials

Publications Survey

The group does not recommend a survey for every question discussed—only those questions on where more information is required or where the group did not reach consensus. The survey should produce a ranking of important items by users. It should not be a laundry list that encompasses too much information.

The group recommended keeping the survey to two pages so that response will be greater.

Public Education

Any financial savings that result from any of the changes this group recommended should be placed in the Publications and Media Section budget to be used for public education, specifically, to reach physically handicapped people. Another photomural exhibit and concomitant materials should be devised showing a recognizable physical handicap—for instance, a picture of a high-level quadriplegic person in an appropriate setting.

As you can tell from the brief summary of the suggestions a great deal was discussed. I am sure Joyce Scanlan, your representative, will be discussing the implications of the recommendations with the NFB Library Committee and with Mr. Jernigan and Marc Maurer. We at NLS await your comments.

Last

After much discussion, plans have matured to permit Braille book manufacturers producing books under contract to NLS to sell them to individuals at a cost not to exceed production costs—minus the costs of the embossing plates. As the plates are the largest single unit cost—approximately 65% of a complete book—the cost to purchasers should be in line with that of print books to sighted readers. The decision to pursue this sales project resulted directly from NFB interest. Conversations were held with Mr. Jernigan, Marc Maurer and some of you in the audience.



Elijah Cummings, Chairman of the Black Caucus of the General Assembly of the State of Maryland, came to the convention and participated. He stood with President-Elect Maurer to make public declaration of his solidarity with us.

Then staff worked with both the Library of Congress legal staff and the Braille producers. I believe the result is one which should please you all.

That concludes my comments for this morning. I will be delighted to answer any questions you may have at this time.

As you know as soon as this session closes I will also be available for as long as you wish. I urge everyone who wishes to talk in depth on any pertinent subject to join Judy Dixon and me. As in past years we both will stay as long as there is a person with a question.

BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS, WHITE CIVIL RIGHTS: THE NATURE OF FREEDOM

By Elijah E. Cummings

(Elijah Cummings is Chairman of the Black Caucus of the General Assembly of the State of Maryland. He is also a true friend of the blind. He came to the convention of the National Federation of the Blind in Kansas City July 2, had to return home for an important meeting that evening, came back to the convention July 3, spoke to the delegates, stayed through the banquet, and left July 4. His remarks were powerfully delivered and brought forth an enthusiastic response.)

In the minds of many, the civil rights movement has come to represent civil rights for a single class. This is a most short-sighted attitude, which prevents progress and stifles development. It has been observed that for one of us to be free, all of us must participate in liberty. If we are not mindful of freedom for our neighbors, who can complain when we lose our own? As President Truman observed, "In the cause of freedom we have to battle for the rights of people with whom we do not agree; and

whom, in many cases, we may not like.... If we do not defend their rights, we endanger our own."

A vital element of a full life is liberty. To the extent we have it, our lives can flourish, our horizons can expand, our plans can magnify, our dreams can become reality. To the extent that we lack the essential element of freedom, our lives are diminished, our future is stultified, our dreams will perish. This is true not only for some of us, but for all of us. If we are prevented by arbitrary and capricious means from attaining an objective, we lose a part of the life that could be ours. It is not simply a personal loss. If a child is prevented from gaining an education, the accomplishments which that child might have made will never be enjoyed by his neighbors. Both the individual and the society at large are diminished by this discrimination. When one loses, we all lose.

I am chairman of the Maryland Black Caucus—the largest black caucus in America. Early in life I came to appre-

ciate the need for civil rights in the Black Movement. I learned that civil rights is not merely a good thing to do; it is vital to the growth of these United States; it is essential to a future with promise. The black civil rights movement is close to my heart. It taught me to recognize the principles of liberty, and it gave me the vision to nurture those principles wherever I found them. Two years ago a man came to me with a problem. A health spa had decided to prohibit blind people from becoming members. The owner said that the blind were not suited to enter the club. He went so far as to say that blind people could not join the club for their own safety and their own good. "The blind might fall and hurt themselves," he said. Despite his outward appearance of kindness, this health club owner displayed capriciousness and prejudice to the blind. I began to work with the National Federation of the Blind to solve this problem. I must tell you that the association has been both pleasant and productive. To begin with, we solved the health spa problem. At my request, the Attorney General of Maryland issued an opinion declaring that the White Cane Law made it illegal to prevent the blind from entering a health club. Through carefully orchestrated public appearances and demonstrations, pressure was brought to bear. Finally, the health club owner changed his policy.

That was my first encounter—and it was at the grass roots (or, I might say the sidewalk) level. I walked with Marc Maurer, Jim Omvig, and other members of the National Federation of the Blind to the health spa door and called on the owner to let us in. We walked as

brothers and sisters—not as black or white, not as male or female, not as blind or sighted, not as old or young. Those things were not what was important. We walked to that door together and knocked to come in. We came as equals—seeking first-class status, and expecting to have it—asking for nothing more than the fulfillment of human dignity and expecting to earn it.

That was my first encounter with you, the members of the National Federation of the Blind. You are my kind of people. We solved a specific individual problem. The next step was to change the law so that the problems could no longer exist. Do blind people deserve the minimum wage? Of course they do. Should blind people have the right to sue for a court order to prevent discrimination when it occurs? Of course they should. Is the seventy percent unemployment rate for blind people an indication of massive discrimination? Of course it is. We faced these problems in the Maryland legislature earlier this year. To solve them, we adopted legislation which declares that blind people at Blind Industries and Services of Maryland are guaranteed the minimum wage. Victims of discrimination because of blindness have the right to sue for an injunction. Finally, we created a Governor's Commission to study the problems faced by the blind in Maryland. This Commission will report to the 1987 legislature and will recommend legislative changes. All of this was accomplished in one year.

In August 1984, I met your president, Dr. Jernigan, for the first time. We held a press conference at the National Center for the Blind. Dr. Jernigan spoke to the reporters about the arbi-

trary and irresponsible behavior of certain airline officials. He said that the blind of the nation were no longer willing to tolerate discrimination and that one plan under consideration was the nationwide shutdown of a selected air carrier. Blind people were being told that they must be segregated in seating. Those with dog guides must sit in the bulkhead row. Some blind people were informed that they must board the plane before all other passengers. Certain airlines continued a policy requiring blind people to be dead-last off the plane in an emergency. Blind people had been arrested for peacefully demanding the right to equal treatment. The Federation and its members had written hundreds of letters. Federation officers had tried negotiation. Complaints had been made to public officials. The response was universal—the blind were told that they were oversensitive. Surely one seat on the plane was as good as another. Obviously, some minor inconvenience was caused, and there might even be a little injustice. However, both airline representatives and public officials agreed that the alleged discrimination against the blind was simply not all that important. The question raised at the press conference by President Jernigan was the same as the question raised 20 years earlier in the black movement. If the letter writing fails, if negotiations break down, if complaints to public officials are ignored, what is left but confrontation? Dr. Jernigan presented the case with reason and logic; the reporters understood it and reported it.

As I remember the press conference, I felt genuine surprise. It is rare to find an individual with dynamic leader-

ship. It is also rare to find a person with imagination and originality. Dr. Jernigan is such an individual. Since our meeting in 1984, we have worked closely in partnership to change the lives of blind people in Maryland, but in a broader sense, to bring about a better and brighter future for all people. I can truthfully say that I did not expect blind people to possess the quality of political acumen which I have found or to have the will for self-organization which you demonstrate. However, my association with Dr. Jernigan and the rest of you in the National Federation of the Blind has broadened my awareness and deepened my understanding. I feel right at home at this convention of the National Federation of the Blind.

During the years I have worked with the Federation, I have gained great respect for its leaders. Not only does the Federation help to bring greater opportunity to the blind, but it leads the way in eliminating prejudice and promoting independence for others. Marc Maurer, President of the Maryland affiliate, has led the way in establishing policies to protect the rights of the disabled. In my work as a legislator, I consult with leaders in the community to find creative solutions. I can help change the laws, but to develop proper policy, I consult with the people affected. Marc Maurer is one of the people who brings imagination to the problems faced by the blind. In recognition of his work as a leader in Maryland I presented him with a plaque last October 15 (White Cane Safety Day) which reads:

Presented to
Marc Maurer
For Your Tremendous Efforts

In the Struggle for Equality
And Justice for the Blind
And Handicapped of Maryland

by Elijah E. Cummings
Delegate

October 15, 1985

It has often been said that no black person can be free as long as a single black person is enslaved. And no white person can be free as long as a single black person is enslaved. However, it is also true that no black person can be free as long as a single white person is not free. If slavery is tolerated for a single person, no one of us is truly free.

Today we speak of a precious commodity—freedom. One necessary element of this precious article is the opportunity to exercise individual power—the right to make a choice. Freedom implies the absence of arbitrary domination. If this opportunity to exercise individual power is completely lost, there is total bondage. However, this is not the way it happens. A tiny bit is lost here, and a thin slice is taken there. A job is not available. An educational institution refuses to open its doors. A health club tells the blind to keep out. Complete domination is not demanded, but free choice is restricted so that individual power may not be exercised—and thereby liberty is lost.

Discrimination is a blight—a cancer that kills. It may not end a physical existence but it can destroy the meaningful lives of its victims. If you deprive a human being of a single breath, the damage is not great. Stop a person from breathing for two minutes, and there will still be life, though it

may be painful. If the time climbs to ten minutes, the victim dies. Although discrimination is not ordinarily a physical attack, it is no less destructive to a joyous and meaningful life than a cancer or a choke hold.

Discrimination takes away a vital part of life. The opportunity to exercise individual power is vital not only for each person involved but also for the community as a whole. The power of a community or a nation is derived from the power possessed by its citizens. Discrimination prevents an individual from exercising power and robs the community of the energy which would be created by that individual choice.

One view of wealth would have us believe that for one section of our society to have worldly goods another must be in poverty. There is never enough to go around. The pie is always too small for everyone to have a piece. For me to have wealth, I must take it from my neighbors. This is the opinion that some people have of economics. This view is not only destructive, but it is wrong. There is more wealth in our country today than ever before in history, and more people share in it. In order to create wealth, we must get more hands and more minds working to devise methods for bringing it about. We must bring people to understand that we all have a stake in the well-being of our community and its members, and we all share in it. Rather than redistribute an inadequate supply of goods, we must create more goods. In America we have demonstrated that this can be done. The job is not finished; we have not yet made economic opportunity available to all. However, we have begun. A large segment of the American population has

the opportunity to earn a living wage. But this opportunity must be extended to others. Black Americans have an unemployment rate which is twice or three times as high as the unemployment rate for those who are white. Blind Americans have seventy percent unemployment rate. These numbers are a dramatic demonstration that we have failed to solve the problems for these minority groups. For some people these unemployment statistics are disheartening and debilitating. For me they are a clarion call for action. They demand that we focus our efforts and concentrate our resources. They insist that we redouble our commitment, and that we work, plan, and build.

Just as it is with wealth, so it is with liberty. To achieve equality we must raise the standards, heighten the expectations, and increase the opportunities for those who have not had

them. There is not a finite and limited supply of freedom to be divided up. If those without freedom are to have it, it will not be necessary to take it from their fellow human beings. What we must do is create more liberty, more opportunity, and more free choice. If we do so, we help to contribute power to our nation. With increased freedom comes individual benefit, but with it also, we build a nation with more power and more promise. You of the National Federation of the Blind understand these principles and strive for this goal. This is why it has been my great pleasure to work with you. We have built freedom in the past, and we will continue to do so in the years ahead. The program we have laid out is morally right, economically sound, and politically practical. It means nothing less than dignity and freedom for us all.

LETTER FROM NCSAB PRESIDENT

On Thursday, July 3, 1986, Charles Young (Administrator of the Oregon Commission for the Blind and President of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind, Inc.) spoke at a general session of the National Federation of the Blind convention. In the discussion which followed his address he was asked whether the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind would support the effort of the National Federation of the Blind to get Congress to make it mandatory for states to participate in the

Randolph-Sheppard vending program. Mr. Young said that the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind as an organization and he as an individual would support this action:

National Council of State Agencies
for the Blind, Inc.
July 8, 1986

Dear Senator Weicker:

As President of the National Council of State Agencies for the Blind (NCSAB), I wish to express my support for a proposal to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that has recently been made by the National Federation of the Blind. The enclosed amendment would require all state agencies providing federally funded vocational rehabilitation services for blind individuals to be designated as licensing agencies for the Randolph-Sheppard Program.

The purpose of the amendment is to ensure that all blind Americans have an equal opportunity to participate in this valuable program regardless of state residence. Presently more than 4,000 individuals derive their income from this program, and since this program was first established fifty years ago, more than 100,000 persons have benefited. Yet because states are not required to participate in this national program, not all blind Americans have a chance to

benefit. Recently two states have decided to drop this program.

The proposed requirement that all state agencies participate in the program would be just one of many other assurances that states currently must give to receive federal vocational rehabilitation funds. I believe this to be a simple solution that would enjoy tremendous support from all segments of the blind community and from agencies serving blind individuals.

I ask that you support this amendment and that you work to ensure its passage. You are well-known as an advocate of opportunity for disabled individuals. This proposed change of the Rehabilitation Act would provide equal opportunity to all blind Americans to participate in this successful employment program.

Sincerely,
Charles E. Young

OWEN CUDNEY DIES

by Kenneth Jernigan

Writing about the death of a friend and colleague is never easy, but writing about the death of Owen Cudney is especially difficult. For a dozen years he had been the auditor for the National Federation of the Blind, but he was far more than that. He was one who understood what we are doing and believed in the right of the blind to achieve first-

class citizenship.

I first met Owen in the early 1970's. He was introduced to me by Dick Edlund, who had known him since boyhood. From the beginning it was clear that Owen was a man of compassion and understanding and of rock-ribbed integrity. He was one of the kindest and most generous people I have ever known, but he never

waivered from principle. He was careful about what he said, but when he said it, he meant it—and you could count on it.

Year after year Owen and his wonderful wife Louise came to our conventions. Owen was present at every session. He was quiet and unassuming but extremely observant. He believed that the blind had the right to be free, and he knew that the Federation was the vehicle to the goal.

In March of 1984 he learned that he had cancer of the liver. He received massive chemotherapy treatments and undoubtedly experienced much pain, but he was always positive and cheerful. He left the hospital to come to the 1984 convention in Phoenix. Disregarding his personal problem, he behaved with his usual manner of concern for others. I shall never forget the dinner we had together in Scottsdale on the last night

of the convention.

For the next two years Owen waged a courageous battle against cancer, but as the months went by, it was clear that (despite his optimism and positive attitude) the end was close. Since he lived in Kansas City, he especially wanted to come to the 1986 convention. When I arrived in Kansas City I talked with Louise, and she told me that the doctors had said the end might come at any time. However, when I talked with Owen later that day, he was his usual positive self, telling me that he hoped he would be able to come to the hotel and see me. I think he knew that this was not possible and was simply following his usual pattern of trying to make things easier for others.

He died on Sunday, August 3rd, at the age of 62. We share Louise's grief at his loss. He was a champion for our rights and a true personal friend.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND AS AMENDED 1986

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization is The National Federation of the Blind.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the National Federation

of the Blind is to serve as a vehicle for collective action by the blind of the nation; to function as a mechanism through which the blind and interested sighted persons can come together in local, state, and national meetings to

plan and carry out programs to improve the quality of life for the blind; to provide a means of collective action for parents of blind children; to promote the vocational, cultural, and social advancement of the blind; to achieve the integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality with the sighted; and to take any other action which will improve the overall condition and standard of living of the blind.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. The membership of The National Federation of the Blind shall consist of the members of the state affiliates, the members of divisions, and members at large. Members of divisions and members at large shall have the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities in The National Federation of the Blind as members of state affiliates.

The Board of Directors shall establish procedures for admission of divisions and shall determine the structure of divisions. The divisions shall, with the approval of the Board, adopt constitutions and determine their membership policies. Membership in divisions shall not be conditioned upon membership in state affiliates.

The Board of Directors shall establish procedures for admission of members at large, determine how many classes of such members shall be established, and determine the annual dues to be paid by members of each class.

Section B. Each state or territorial possession of the United States, including the District of Columbia, having an affiliate shall have one vote at the

National Convention. These organizations shall be referred to as state affiliates.

Section C. State affiliates shall be organizations of the blind controlled by the blind. No organization shall be recognized as an "organization of the blind controlled by the blind" unless at least a majority of its voting members and a majority of the voting members of each of its local chapters are blind.

Section D. The Board of Directors shall establish procedures for the admission of state affiliates. There shall be only one state affiliate in each state.

Section E. Any member, local chapter, state affiliate, or division of this organization may be suspended, expelled, or otherwise disciplined for misconduct or for activity unbecoming to a member or affiliate of this organization by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors or by a simple majority of the states present and voting at a National Convention. If the action is to be taken by the Board, there must be good cause, and a good faith effort must have been made to try to resolve the problem by discussion and negotiation. If the action is to be taken by the Convention, notice must be given on the preceding day at an open Board meeting or a session of the Convention. If a dispute arises as to whether there was "good cause," or whether the Board made a "good faith effort," the National Convention (acting in its capacity as the supreme authority of the Federation) shall have the power to make final disposition of the matter; but until or unless the Board's action is reversed

by the National Convention, the ruling of the Board shall continue in effect.

ARTICLE IV.

OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD,

Section A. The officers of The National Federation of the Blind shall be: (1) President, (2) First Vice President, (3) Second Vice President, (4) Secretary, and (5) Treasurer. They shall be elected biennially.

Section B. The officers shall be elected by majority vote of the state affiliates present and voting at a National Convention.

Section C. The National Federation of the Blind shall have a Board of Directors, which shall be composed of the five officers and twelve additional members, six of whom shall be elected at the Annual Convention during even numbered years and six of whom shall be elected at the Annual Convention during odd numbered years. The members of the Board of Directors shall serve for two-year terms.

Section D. The Board of Directors may, in its discretion, create a National Advisory Board and determine the duties, and qualifications of the members of the National Advisory Board.

ARTICLE V.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE CONVENTION, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND THE PRESIDENT

Section A. Powers and Duties of the

Convention. The Convention is the supreme authority of the Federation. It is the legislature of the Federation. As such, it has final authority with respect to all issues of policy. Its decisions shall be made after opportunity has been afforded for full and fair discussion. Delegates and members in attendance may participate in all Convention discussions as a matter of right. Any member of the Federation may make or second motions, propose nominations, and serve on committees; and is eligible for election to office, except that only blind members may be elected to the National Board. Voting and making motions by proxy are prohibited. Consistent with the democratic character of the Federation, Convention meetings shall be so conducted as to prevent parliamentary maneuvers which would have the effect of interfering with the expression of the will of the majority on any question, or with the rights of the minority to full and fair presentation of their views. The Convention is not merely a gathering of representatives of separate state organizations. It is a meeting of the Federation at the national level in its character as a national organization. Committees of the Federation are committees of the national organization. The nominating committee shall consist of one member from each state affiliate represented at the Convention, and each state affiliate shall appoint its member to the committee. From among the members of the committee, the President shall appoint a chairperson.

Section B. Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors. The function of the Board of Directors as the governing body

of the Federation between Conventions is to make policies when necessary and not in conflict with the policies adopted by the Convention. Policy decisions which can reasonably be postponed until the next meeting of the National Convention shall not be made by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall serve as a credentials committee. It shall have the power to deal with organizational problems presented to it by any member, local chapter, state affiliate, or division; shall decide appeals regarding the validity of elections in local chapters, state affiliates, or divisions; and shall certify the credentials of delegates when questions regarding the validity of such credentials arise. By a two-thirds vote the Board may suspend one of its members for violation of a policy of the organization or for other action unbecoming to a member of the Federation. By a two-thirds vote the Board may reorganize any local chapter, state affiliate, or division. The Board may not suspend one of its own members or reorganize a local chapter, state affiliate, or division except for good cause and after a good faith effort has been made to try to resolve the problem by discussion and negotiation. If a dispute arises as to whether there was "good cause" or whether the Board made a "good faith effort," the National Convention (acting in its capacity as the supreme authority of the Federation) shall have the power to make final disposition of the matter; but until or unless the Board's action is reversed by the National Convention, the ruling of the Board shall continue in effect. There shall be a standing subcommittee of the Board of Directors which shall

consist of three members. The committee shall be known as the Subcommittee on Budget and Finance. It shall, whenever it deems necessary, recommend to the Board of Directors principles of budgeting, accounting procedures, and methods of financing the Federation program; and shall consult with the President on major expenditures.

The Board of Directors shall meet at the time of each National Convention. It shall hold other meetings on the call of the President or on the written request of any five members.

Section C. Powers and Duties of the President. The President is the principal administrative officer of the Federation. In this capacity his or her duties consist of: carrying out the policies adopted by the Convention; conducting the day-to-day management of the affairs of the Federation; authorizing expenditures from the Federation treasury in accordance with and in implementation of the policies established by the Convention; appointing all committees of the Federation except the Nominating Committee; coordinating all activities of the Federation, including the work of other officers and of committees; hiring, supervising, and dismissing staff members and other employees of the Federation, and determining their numbers and compensation; taking all administrative actions necessary and proper to put into effect the programs and accomplish the purposes of the Federation.

The implementation and administration of the interim policies adopted by the Board of Directors are the responsibility of the President as principal administrative officer of the Federation.

ARTICLE VI. STATE AFFILIATES

Any organized group desiring to become a state affiliate of The National Federation of the Blind shall apply for affiliation by submitting to the President of The National Federation of the Blind a copy of its constitution and a list of the names and addresses of its elected officers. Under procedures to be established by the Board of Directors, action shall be taken on the application. If the action is affirmative, The National Federation of the Blind shall issue to the organization a charter of affiliation. Upon request of the National President the state affiliate shall provide to the National President the names and addresses of its members. Copies of all amendments to the constitution and/or bylaws of an affiliate shall be sent without delay to the National President. No organization shall be accepted as an affiliate and no organization shall remain an affiliate unless at least a majority of its voting members are blind. The president, vice-president (or vice-presidents), and at least a majority of the executive committee or board of directors of the state affiliate and of all of its local chapters must be blind. Affiliates must not merely be social organizations but must formulate programs and actively work to promote the economic and social betterment of the blind. Affiliates and their local chapters must comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federation. Policy decisions of the Federation are binding upon all affiliates and local chapters, and the affiliate and its local chapters must participate affirmatively in carrying out such policy decisions. The name

National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind, or any variant thereof is the property of The National Federation of the Blind; and any affiliate, or local chapter of an affiliate, which ceases to be part of The National Federation of the Blind (for whatever reason) shall forthwith forfeit the right to use the name **National Federation of the Blind, Federation of the Blind**, or any variant thereof.

A general convention of the membership of an affiliate or of the elected delegates of the membership must be held and its principal executive officers must be elected at least once every two years. There can be no closed membership. Proxy voting is prohibited in state affiliates and local chapters. Each affiliate must have a written constitution or bylaws setting forth its structure, the authority of its officers, and the basic procedures which it will follow. No publicly contributed funds may be divided among the membership of an affiliate or local chapter on the basis of membership, and (upon request from the National Office) an affiliate or local chapter must present an accounting of all of its receipts and expenditures. An affiliate or local chapter must not indulge in attacks upon the officers, Board members, leaders, or members of the Federation or upon the organization itself outside of the organization, and must not allow its officers or members to indulge in such attacks. This requirement shall not be interpreted to interfere with the right of an affiliate or local chapter, or its officers or members, to carry on a political campaign inside the Federation for election to office or to achieve policy changes. However, the organiza-

tion will not sanction or permit deliberate, sustained campaigns of internal organizational destruction by state affiliates, local chapters, or members. No affiliate or local chapter may join or support, or allow its officers or members to join or support, any temporary or permanent organization inside the Federation which has not received the sanction and approval of the Federation.

ARTICLE VII. DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution, all assets of the organization shall be given to an organization with similar purposes

which has received a 501(c)(3) certification by the Internal Revenue Service.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any regular Annual Convention of the Federation by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the state affiliates registered, present, and voting; provided that the proposed amendment shall have been signed by five state affiliates in good standing and that it shall have been presented to the President the day before final action by the Convention.

RESOLUTIONS

A total of 35 resolutions were considered and acted upon before the 1986 convention of the National Federation of the Blind. Two of them were withdrawn by their sponsors, and two were defeated by vote of the convention. Here is a summary of the resolutions followed by the complete text of those which were adopted.

86-01: recognizes the importance of effective and affordable public mass transit services for the blind and notes the growing use of paratransit services especially designed for the handicapped. The resolution encourages mass transit providers to serve the blind in the same way as other passengers and asks that the blind not be burdened with special requirements or unwanted services. The resolution takes the position that paratransit service should be offered to

blind persons who have a demonstrated need for such services.

86-02: "condemns and deplors" proposed legislation promoted in Congress by the managers of sheltered workshops seeking to obtain Federal government small business set-aside contracts without providing for minimum wage and other requirements that apply to all other employers who receive such contracts.

86-03: expresses opposition to a bill in Congress which attempts to relax current legal requirements which sheltered workshops must meet to obtain permission to pay sub-minimum wages to the blind.

86-04: deals with the recent withdrawal of two states (Wyoming and Montana) from the Federal Randolph-Sheppard

Program. It urges Congress to enact safeguard legislation to discourage other states from withdrawing from the Program.

86-05: commends Senator Ted Stevens (senior United States Senator from Alaska) for his efforts on behalf of the blind in a recent controversy involving fast-food chains and the General Services Administration (GSA.) Due to Senator Stevens' efforts, GSA has now adopted a policy which truly gives blind vendors a priority for the operation of cafeterias in Federal buildings.

86-06: calls for adoption of pending legislation in Congress to improve the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, together with an amendment to restore the value of SSI's earned income exemptions first adopted by Congress in 1972.

86-07: notes the growing need of some blind individuals to obtain immunosuppressive drug therapy necessary to prevent rejection of certain organ transplants, such as kidney transplants in the case of blind diabetics. The resolution expresses support for a bill now pending in Congress aimed at providing grants to states for immunosuppressive drug therapy.

86-08: deplores the exclusive use that Federal agencies make of approval of Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and counselors prior to hiring the blind for non-competitive appointment to Federal jobs. Federal agencies are urged not to give Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and counselors "veto power" over jobs and hiring decisions affecting the blind.

86-09: urges Congress to enact a bill sponsored by Representative Patricia Schroeder seeking to exempt readers for

blind Federal employees from agency personnel ceilings and to make other improvements designed to promote increased hiring of blind persons in the Federal work force. Mrs. Schroeder's legislation resulted from meetings with leaders of the National Federation of the Blind at our 1985 convention.

86-10: addresses the growing difficulties that blind people have in traveling on commercial airlines. The resolution identifies the source of the problem as being the procedures that airlines have developed to identify the blind as handicapped, helpless, and unsafe. The resolution urges all airlines to change any such procedures under which the blind have been erroneously classified.

86-11: explains the effect of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *United States Department of Transportation v. Paralyzed Veterans of America*. In this case, the Court decided that commercial airlines are not generally recipients of Federal financial assistance. As the resolution states: The Court's decision "...actually changes nothing insofar as the blind are concerned. Prior to that decision, the airlines were not legally permitted to discriminate against blind air travelers, and there is no law or interpretation of law that says they may do so now."

86-12: condemns and deplores a policy of the State of Hawaii which subjects blind persons using dog guides to a quarantine procedure upon their arrival in Hawaii. The resolution identifies modern medical techniques which are capable of detecting the presence of active or dormant rabies, thus removing the only justification which officials

of the State of Hawaii have had for imposing the quarantine.

86-13: opposes the establishment of a national standard for installed environmental travel aids for the blind, such as audible traffic signals and pathfinder tiles, and further opposes the frivolous and harmful expenditure of public funds for the installation of these undesirable devices and aids.

86-14: calls for a principle of "equal access to print information" to be adopted in all post-secondary education programs.

86-15: opposes a trend toward lowering admission and academic standards for blind students attending post-secondary education institutions and urges administrators of higher education programs to resist the lowering of any standards on grounds of blindness.

86-16: addresses a problem which has already developed in the administration of aptitude tests by the United States Employment Service and state job service agencies, urging all such agencies to work with Job Opportunities for the Blind to eliminate discrimination in aptitude testing.

86-17: addresses the problems confronted by blind persons who travel on airlines, noting that: "...for nearly ten years the airline industry, with few exceptions, has taken the attitude that blind people should be subjected to special rules not applicable to the general public..."

86-18: asks the United States Postal Service and Congress to cooperate in the issuance of a commemorative, fiftieth anniversary postage stamp to honor the life and accomplishments of Dr. Jacobus tenBroek and the National Federation of the Blind.

86-19: seeks the wider distribution of recorded material on parenting, and urges the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to provide at least one distributed periodical on this subject.

86-20: asks the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) to provide the annual "Fortune 500" listing in Braille, and to make copies available to any blind person through the NLS network of regional and subregional libraries.

86-21: identifies as harmful to the image of the blind certain information and fundraising campaign materials distributed by the Easter Seal Society. The resolution urges the Easter Seal Society immediately to withdraw these materials from circulation and to work with the National Federation of the Blind in order to distribute accurate and positive materials which advance the cause of the blind.

86-22: opposes legislation now pending in Congress seeking to impose a royalty tax on the purchase of recording devices and media (including tape cassettes) designed and intended for home use.

86-23: calls attention to certain misleading notices sent to Social Security beneficiaries each year advising them of the earnings which they are allowed to make without penalty during the following year. The notices imply that blind beneficiaries are not allowed or encouraged to work, and the resolution asks the Social Security Administration to include specific information to avoid this misimpression.

86-24: This resolution, concerning blind vendors' holding valid drivers' licenses, was withdrawn by request of

its sponsors.

86-25: urges Recording for the Blind to drop its affiliation with the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NAC) and to work more closely with blind consumers through the National Federation of the Blind in order to assure high quality service.

86-26: This resolution, concerning the teaching of the Nemeth Code, was withdrawn by request of its sponsor.

86-27: identifies the problems encountered by some blind parents in confronting public agencies who seek to remove a child or children from their custody. The resolution recommends adoption of model legislation prepared and enacted in the state of California to deal with this problem.

86-28: demands that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) confine itself to matters of safety by issuing a policy that the FAA will accept no procedures filed by commercial airlines that contain non-safety related provisions and requiring that every section of each such procedure include written justification for its needs as to safety, based on available and objective evidence.

86-29: expresses opposition to a conference on special needs of the blind in public mass transit being planned by the American Foundation for the Blind in cooperation with the American Transit Association and the Urban Mass Transit Administration.

86-30: urges all dog guide schools to hire blind persons as trainers and instructors and offers assistance to dog

guide schools in locating blind persons who desire positions as dog guide trainers and instructors.

86-31: This resolution, concerning distribution of PLAYBOY magazine by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, was defeated by the convention.

86-32: calls for the immediate termination of the ABC television series entitled "Mr. Sunshine" on the basis that the series has portrayed an inaccurate, negative, and harmful image of the blind.

86-33: This resolution, concerning abortion, was defeated by the convention.

86-101: confirms the role and function of the National Office of the Federation in the establishment of all contracts involving fundraising, requiring that no local chapter or state affiliate may enter into any agreement concerning fundraising with any person, group of persons, corporation, or other entity without receiving prior written approval from the President or Board of the National Federation of the Blind.

86-1001: establishes transition arrangements for the presidency of the National Federation of the Blind, naming Kenneth Jernigan "Advisor to the President, Officers, and Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind," and providing Dr. Jernigan with necessary access to office and support services, books, records, and materials in order that he may continue to serve the movement throughout the transition and beyond.

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE
ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND
Kansas City, Missouri, July 1986**

RESOLUTION 86-01

WHEREAS, many areas in our nation have long had public transit which enables citizens to participate in education, employment, and community life; and

WHEREAS, available and affordable mass transit is essential for blind people who seek the fullest participation in society; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, transportation providers have instituted a new service known as paratransit, which meets the needs of citizens who cannot use fixed-schedule systems because of age or disability; and

WHEREAS, transit providers throughout the country have adopted widely varying rules concerning the use of paratransit systems by blind persons, ranging from prohibiting paratransit use by the blind to discouraging fixed route use by the blind and instead encouraging that all blind riders use paratransit; and

WHEREAS, all blind persons, except those disabled by lack of training or independent mobility skills or by another disabling condition in addition to blindness, can and should use mass transit wherever it is available, and doing so ensures that paratransit funds are used for those who really need this service: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri,

that this organization promote a policy on mass transit, including paratransit, which is designed to achieve the following objectives:

(1) requiring transit providers to serve the blind as a class as all other passengers so that those blind passengers who can use fixed-route service use it as their only source of transit during all times when fixed-route service is available;

(2) requiring transit providers to allow blind persons to use paratransit only when an individual blind person can demonstrate a legitimate need for paratransit as a primary source of transit because of lack of training or skills or independent mobility or because of a disability other than blindness; and

(3) requiring transit providers to allow blind persons who are capable of traveling independently to use paratransit as a secondary source of transit and only for those times and trips where fixed-route mass transit is not available; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization advocate, as a centerpiece in any such policy, a requirement that paratransit providers meaningfully involve transit consumers, who are members of the National Federation of the Blind, in policy-making and ongoing advisory boards of mass transit systems,

including paratransit, to ensure that blind transit users are served appropriately and well.

RESOLUTION 86-02

WHEREAS, the managers of sheltered workshops and their national associations are promoting legislation in Congress for the purpose of obtaining a new source of preferential treatment in the awarding of Federal government contracts; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Robert Mrazek has introduced H.R. 3866 and Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. has introduced S. 2147, both bills representing the workshop management objective to qualify for government contracts now reserved by law for competition among for-profit small businesses; and

WHEREAS, by seeking small business set-aside contracts, the workshops are asking on the one hand to be treated like small businesses (as opposed to nonprofit rehabilitation or therapeutic centers), while on the other hand the workshops are continuing to insist that they must pay their blind workers substandard wages and accord them substandard benefits and substandard labor protection: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in Convention assembled this fourth of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this Federation condemn and deplore the preposterous plan of sheltered workshops to obtain preferential treatment through access to federal small business set-aside contracts without making even the slightest nod toward providing better wages and fair employment opportunities to the blind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we continue to urge Congress to turn thumbs down on the proposal for small business set-aside contracts for sheltered workshops until the managers of the workshops are willing to meet the federal pay and other labor standards which Congress has applied to all other employers who benefit by doing business with the government.

RESOLUTION 86-03

WHEREAS, federal law now wrongfully permits employers (especially sheltered workshops) to pay blind people as low as 25% of the minimum wage in "regular workshops" and even less in "work activity centers"; and

WHEREAS, despite having these wage concessions, the managers of sheltered workshops are now asking Congress to relax further the law in order to give workshop managers even more discretion in the payment of subminimum wages; and

WHEREAS, in official testimony before a subcommittee of the Congress holding a hearing on H.R. 2676 (the bill backed by workshop managers) a witness for the United States Department of Labor admitted that, with the enactment of this bill, sheltered workshops would then be approved to pay the blind "any wage above zero": Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization express its official outrage at the idea of giving any employer (even a sheltered workshop) more discretion in paying the blind any wage below the federal minimum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that,

consistent with the policies repeatedly and unanimously expressed by the National Federation of the Blind, all members of Congress are hereby urged soundly to reject any legislation giving any employer greater freedom to pay the blind less than the federal minimum wage.

RESOLUTION 86-04

WHEREAS, the Randolph-Sheppard Act provides business opportunities for blind people who are eligible and qualified to be vendors as determined by a licensing agency in each state; and

WHEREAS, the Randolph-Sheppard Program, now in its 51st year, has had a long history of nationwide success in promoting employment opportunities for the blind, yet, despite the merits of this program, the states of Wyoming and Montana have recently terminated their state licensing agency services to the blind; and

WHEREAS, the decisions of Wyoming and Montana to withdraw from the blind vendor program have caused immediate unemployment for several blind individuals and the loss of future opportunities for employment for many more; and

WHEREAS, by abandoning the blind vendors and potential blind vendors of their respective states, the vocational rehabilitation agencies in Wyoming and Montana have callously ceased to fulfill their responsibilities toward the blind now so far carried out by every other state in this country, yet neither agency lost a dime of federal money by withdrawing from the blind vendor program: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National

Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization actively seek to reinstate the blind vendor program on federal, state, and other property in the states of Wyoming and Montana at the earliest possible opportunity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge Congress to assist the blind of this nation in preserving the Randolph-Sheppard Program by enacting safeguard legislation to the end that state participation in the blind vendor program shall be a requirement of each state's plan for vocational rehabilitation services to the blind.

RESOLUTION 86-05

WHEREAS, at the specific request of the National Federation of the Blind, the Honorable Ted Stevens, senior United States Senator from Alaska, conducted a special oversight hearing to examine policies and practices of the General Services Administration (GSA) regarding the operation of cafeterias by blind vendors in federal buildings nationwide; and

WHEREAS, despite the mandates of the Randolph-Sheppard Act, GSA was applying the blind priority for cafeterias selectively, resulting in few opportunities for blind people to operate large federal cafeterias in GSA buildings; and

WHEREAS, following the hearing held before Senator Stevens' Subcommittee on Civil Service, Post Office, and General Services, GSA dramatically changed its approach to awarding cafeterias to the blind by (1) adopting a new policy of negotiating first with the state

licensing agencies for blind vendors rather than requiring the agencies to bid on cafeteria contracts against commercial competitors; and (2) offering to turn over to the Randolph-Sheppard Program any cafeteria contract which, were it not for the blind priority, would otherwise automatically be extended: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization present official praise and thanks to Senator Ted Stevens, a friend of the nation's blind and a national leader who is willing to stand with us to fight for our rights and to win.

RESOLUTION 86-06

WHEREAS, H.R. 4471, the SSI Improvement Amendments of 1986, has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives by the Honorable Fortney (Pete) Stark of California; and

WHEREAS, among other needed and beneficial Supplemental Security Income (SSI) improvements, this bill includes notice provisions recommended by the National Federation of the Blind for the purpose of giving blind SSI recipients timely information by telephone and certified letter describing actions being taken and the appeal rights that are available; and

WHEREAS, an additional and very much needed SSI improvement, not included in H.R. 4471, is to strengthen work incentives for blind SSI recipients by increasing the amount of the earned income exemptions and annually adjusting the basic earned income exclusion to

reflect wage and price changes: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization urge Congress to consider and pass the SSI Improvement Amendments of 1986 together with an amendment to provide improved work incentives for the blind by restoring the value of the earned income exemptions first adopted by Congress in 1972 and further by assuring that the basic earned income exclusion will not be eroded by inflation in the future.

RESOLUTION 86-07

WHEREAS, S. 2536 has been introduced in the United States Senate by the Honorable Orrin Hatch for the purpose of making grants to states for immunosuppressive drug therapy for recipients of organ transplants; and

WHEREAS, many blind people suffering from diabetes have experienced enormous benefits from kidney transplantation only to find themselves faced with enormous medical expenses which are often not fully covered or not covered at all by the state administered Medicaid programs or by private insurance; and

WHEREAS, although immunosuppressive drug therapy is often prohibitively expensive for individuals to obtain without Medicaid or private insurance coverage, frequent and continuing kidney dialysis treatments for non-kidney transplant patients is even more costly, but ironically such treatments are paid for by Medicaid and Medicare funds: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this Federation enthusiastically support enactment of S. 2536 in this session of Congress in order to aid the growing number of blind individuals who need and will require financial assistance in order to obtain life-sustaining immunosuppressive treatments.

RESOLUTION 86-08

WHEREAS, hiring procedures of the federal government are supposed to promote affirmative action in the employment and advancement of qualified handicapped individuals, including applicants or employees who are blind; and

WHEREAS, appointment of blind individuals to positions in the federal civil service and in the United States Postal Service may be done on a noncompetitive basis, called an "Accepted Appointment"; and

WHEREAS, certification by a vocational rehabilitation counselor that the individual has a handicap and is qualified to perform the work is virtually a requirement for accepted appointments with many federal agencies, although authority for trial appointments does exist; and

WHEREAS, some agencies, such as the United States Postal Service, are so extremely unwilling to evaluate blind job applicants that the blind who seek Postal Service employment are routinely referred back to Vocational Rehabilitation to be evaluated and approved by a rehabilitation counselor before consideration by the Postal

Service may commence; and

WHEREAS, the blind are all too familiar with the backward notions and false images of blindness that prevail in the rehabilitation counseling profession and among individuals in the profession, sadly with only a few exceptions: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this Federation deplore the exclusive use of vocational rehabilitation agencies and counselors as so called "authorities on jobs that the blind can do"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we specifically and vigorously protest the veto power over employment of the blind which some federal agencies have given to Vocational Rehabilitation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Federation shall do all in its power to persuade all appropriate federal officials and agencies to expand their recruitment efforts on behalf of blind people by obtaining referrals for employment from programs such as Job Opportunities for the Blind and other positive job placement sources.

RESOLUTION 86-09

WHEREAS, the Honorable Patricia Schroeder, Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service in the United States House of Representatives, has introduced H.R. 3145 for the purpose of "encouraging the employment of handicapped individuals in the federal government"; and

WHEREAS, a key provision of this bill requires that readers for blind federal

employees shall be exempt from federal agency personnel ceilings, thus insuring that an agency will not be penalized for hiring a blind employee who needs a reader; and

WHEREAS, another important provision of this bill specifically gives federal managers strong personal incentives to recruit and advance qualified handicapped individuals by rating their performance records in this respect as a part of their specific duties; and

WHEREAS, these proposals were recommended to Mrs. Schroeder by the National Federation of the Blind during meetings at our 1985 National Convention, and she has now responded by introducing H.R. 3145 with a statement that she intends to move this bill through Congress: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization express its strong approval and great appreciation to Representative Patricia Schroeder for her enlightened and sensitive approach toward employment of the blind in the federal civil service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge all members of the 99th Congress enthusiastically to endorse Mrs. Schroeder's legislation in order that it may move quickly through the Congress and be enacted into law.

RESOLUTION 86-10

WHEREAS, regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) allow each commercial air carrier independently to develop and implement procedures for the transportation of any "passenger who may

need the assistance of another person to move expeditiously to an exit in the event of an emergency"; and

WHEREAS, the FAA and most of the commercial air carriers have erroneously presumed that blind people, as a class, necessarily fall within the category of passengers who may need the assistance of another person, thereby being subject to the airline procedures authorized by the FAA regulations; and

WHEREAS, this false presumption of the airlines and the FAA has led to a shocking and shameful increase in the pattern of hostile incidents provoked against blind passengers by airline personnel; and

WHEREAS, the growing pattern of airline hostility toward the blind raises serious Constitutional questions involving the freedom to travel and the right to equal protection, yet the airlines deliberately sidestep these issues by talking about safety, even to the point of using other passengers and the general public in an attempt to cajole and frighten the blind into submission; and

WHEREAS, the blind, as much as any other group of human beings, are seriously concerned about legitimate safety issues, and unlike some of the airlines we do not believe that safety is so unimportant that it should be raised as a mask for whatever form of treatment the airlines want to inflict on anyone, blind or not; Now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this Federation vigorously insist that any airline procedures or practices providing for treatment of all blind

people as helpless and unsafe must be changed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all commercial air carriers are hereby asked and urged to work with the blind, through the National Federation of the Blind, in order to adopt more reasonable and responsible approaches, including the modification of any procedures to insure that the blind are no longer erroneously classified.

RESOLUTION 86-11

WHEREAS, on June 27, 1986, the United States Supreme Court handed down its opinion in United States Department of Transportation v. Paralyzed Veterans of America; and

WHEREAS, this 6 to 3 decision of the high court holds that most commercial air carriers do not receive federal financial assistance, with the exception of any carrier or carriers which are paid direct federal subsidies; and

WHEREAS, it has been said by some in the aviation industry and in reports by the news media that the Supreme Court's decision gives the airlines greater freedom to discriminate against the blind since the court did not apply to the airlines a specific law pertaining to discrimination on the basis of handicap; and

WHEREAS, this unfounded and overly broad interpretation of the Supreme Court's ruling will if followed inevitably lead to even more hostile confrontation provoked by airline personnel against blind air travelers who seek only the right to fly on equal terms with others similarly situated; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court has not

struck down the right of every person, sighted or blind, to freedom of travel throughout our country without undue restriction and the right of the blind, along with others similarly situated, to equal protection under the United States Constitution, nor has the Court invited the airlines to discriminate, and no airline policy of discrimination has been upheld by the court: Now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization alert all airlines and the public at large that the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Paralyzed Veterans of America case actually changes nothing insofar as the blind are concerned. Prior to that decision, the airlines were not legally permitted to discriminate against blind air travelers, and there is no law or interpretation of law that says they may do so now.

RESOLUTION 86-12

WHEREAS, blind people everywhere throughout the United States have the right to travel with freedom and independence; and

WHEREAS, independent mobility for the blind includes the use of appropriate alternative techniques and aids such as long white canes or dog guides; and

WHEREAS, the notable and singular exception to the aforementioned right is a quarantine imposed by the State of Hawaii on dog guides; and

WHEREAS, this quarantine amounts to an abridgement of the Constitutional right

of a blind person to free travel within the United States; and

WHEREAS, historically the Hawaii quarantine has been rationalized on the basis that the State of Hawaii is allegedly rabies free and that such a quarantine is necessary to prevent the introduction of rabies into Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, modern medical techniques developed within the last three years obviate the need for the Hawaii quarantine requirement through the ability to make an immediate diagnosis of the presence of active or dormant rabies in a dog guide; and

WHEREAS, because of parochial and economic reasons unrelated to the medical facts at hand, officials of the State of Hawaii have continued callously to impose this now unjustifiable and invidious quarantine: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this Federation condemn and deplore the continued use of the Hawaii quarantine in the face of contrary medical techniques which would insure the Constitutional right of blind persons to unrestricted travel; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Congress of the United States to establish a Federal prohibition against any quarantine of dog guides, particularly the quarantine currently imposed by the State of Hawaii.

RESOLUTION 86-13

WHEREAS, it has been proposed that the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) establish a national standard for

installed travel aids for the blind and that the Department of Transportation use such standard to promulgate regulations for cities to install such devices as audible traffic signals, pathfinder tiles, and tactile detection for bus stops, platform edges, and openings to public buildings; and

WHEREAS, it is reported that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is considering the adoption of a policy on tactile aids for the blind for inclusion in its manual (the GREEN BOOK); and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such standards and regulations for installed travel aids is being purported in the name of safety for the blind traveler; and

WHEREAS, such standards of safety are aimed to coddle and pad the world for the blind; and

WHEREAS, such a coddle-and-pad-the-world-for-the-blind mentality is harmful to the blind and imposes a negative attitude on society toward the blind which results in a lack of acceptance of the blind and other discriminatory practices, including discrimination against the blind in employment; and

WHEREAS, blind people are capable and competent travelers without installed travel aids which are wasteful of public funds and annoying to both blind and sighted members of the public: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization condemn and deplore the establishment of a national standard for installed travel aids for the blind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization proclaim that the expenditure of funds for such installed travel aids as audible traffic signals, pathfinder tiles, and tactile detection for bus stops, platform edges, and openings to public buildings flies in the face of reason as it is a frivolous and harmful expenditure of public funds.

RESOLUTION 86-14

WHEREAS, blind students attending post-secondary educational institutions require access to printed material, including books, articles, computer printouts, library references, and other material available only in print formats; and

WHEREAS, given the diversity of subject matter and the formats in which it may be presented, access to printed information by means of a sighted reader remains the most practical, versatile, and cost-effective alternative technique for providing blind students equal access to the same material which sighted students routinely have in print; and

WHEREAS, the equal access principle identified in the preceeding paragraph includes freedom of choice for the blind student in the selection of readers to assure their sufficient competence, scheduling of reader times and locations as determined by the blind student and the reader, and, based on the requirements of each student's program of instruction and related educational and training activities, a sufficient quantity of reader service to provide the same amount of access to the same information as compared to sighted students in comparable circumstances;

and

WHEREAS, Section 103 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, authorizes reader services for the blind as a vocational rehabilitation service to be provided to blind students by state vocational rehabilitation agencies; and

WHEREAS, despite the obvious and documented need for reader services to the blind in post-secondary education, and despite the authority for such services to be provided, certain legal and administrative roadblocks now exist, making reader services hard to get or unavailable altogether in all but the most exceptional of circumstances; and

WHEREAS, ironically, although it may have been intended otherwise, the application of Section 504's non-discrimination requirements coupled with the "similiar benefits" principle of the Rehabilitation Act have had the combined effect of denying blind students equal access to information available to sighted students in print formats: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization urge all appropriate state and federal policy makers, including responsible committees of the Congress, to adopt the principle of equal access to information in print formats for the blind in post-secondary education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the policy of equal access to information in print formats called for in this resolution shall be implemented by requiring that each state vocational rehabilitation agency shall have the lead agency

responsibility for meeting the equal access requirements by providing reader services to blind students who, regardless of financial need, are eligible for vocational rehabilitation services and that each institution of higher education shall have the lead agency responsibility for meeting the equal access requirements with respect to blind students who are not eligible for vocational rehabilitation services.

RESOLUTION 86-15

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind has been a long-time advocate of the right of the blind to obtain post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, a basic component of this right is the guarantee that academic equality is afforded to the blind student; and

WHEREAS, during recent hearings before a committee created by the California legislature, disabled student coordinators from within the California State University System stated that the ratio of blind to sighted in the University System was not equal to that in the secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, the disabled student coordinators have proposed the lowering of standards for entrance requirements for the blind in order to achieve a college entrance ratio equal to that of the sighted population; and

WHEREAS, this proposed solution ignores the true causes of the under representation which are inferior training and preparation of the blind in pre-secondary and secondary educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, reduction in requirements incorporates into college programs

inadequate standards and incomplete education for the blind; and

WHEREAS, reduced academic expectations diminish the opportunity for legitimate achievement by blind students and ultimately lessen the value of diplomas earned by blind persons; and

WHEREAS, a lowering of academic standards would lead to a generation of blind persons ill-educated and ill-prepared to assume their rightful place of equality within society: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization condemn and deplore any effort to lower college entrance requirements or academic standards for blind students; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of the Blind call upon college administrators to preserve and protect the standards of education for the blind by upholding the requirements for admission to and graduation from post-secondary institutions which are equal to those required of sighted students.

RESOLUTION 86-16

WHEREAS, under the leadership of the United States Employment Service (USES), many state job services have begun offering aptitude testing as part of their service to job applicants; and

WHEREAS, the test used for this purpose (The General Aptitude Test Battery) relies heavily on the use of vision and is not available in any form which is useable by blind people; and

WHEREAS, employers may request that applicants be referred for vacancies

based in part on their aptitude test scores; and

WHEREAS, this procedure has the effect of eliminating all blind people from consideration, regardless of their qualifications; and

WHEREAS, this discriminatory testing system is one more barrier to employment of the blind; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the United States Department of Labor, the National Federation of the Blind operates the Job Opportunities for the Blind (JOB) Program, the program which is nationally recognized as the authoritative source of information about employment of the blind: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization call upon the United States Employment Service and all state job services to work with Job Opportunities for the Blind to eliminate discrimination in its aptitude testing.

RESOLUTION 86-17

WHEREAS, the right of all Americans to travel unencumbered and unburdened by harassment is guaranteed by the Constitution and by the laws of the United States; and

WHEREAS, blind people are equal and are entitled to the same rights, the same consideration, and the same courtesy as are members of the general population; and

WHEREAS, for nearly ten years, the airline industry, with few exceptions, has taken the attitude that blind people should be subjected to special rules,

not applicable to the general public; and

WHEREAS, over that period of time, blind people have been subjected to humiliation, harassment, interference with their freedom, and, in some cases, outright abuse and arrest; and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind has repeatedly tried to explain to top officials of the airlines and of the Federal government that these actions on their part are unwanted, unwarranted, custodial, and in some cases illegal; and

WHEREAS, with few exceptions, we have been met with either no success and often with outright rejection; and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind believes that the time for talk has now passed, since responsible officials will not listen to reason based on past record: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization take all actions necessary including taking our case to the general public, the news media, members of Congress, Federal officials, the airlines themselves by picketing, and the courts of this land, to ensure that the rights and the dignity of all blind Americans are protected and upheld.

RESOLUTION 86-18

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind was founded in 1940 for the purpose of improving the lives of all blind Americans by promoting their social and economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, from the beginning, the

National Federation of the Blind has been able to attract uniquely talented and outstanding leaders, most especially Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, our founder and long time President, and Dr. Kenneth Jernigan, a President who has lead this organization into full maturity as a respected and successful force for the involvement of the blind on equal terms in American society; and

WHEREAS, through a spirit of dedication and hard work from among the blind of America driven and sustained by the commitment of our national leaders, the National Federation of the Blind is, today, the fulfillment of Dr. tenBroek's dream that the blind of the United States would be organized for self-expression and collective action; and

WHEREAS, such efforts by the blind themselves on behalf of the blind merit national recognition: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization call for the issuance of a United States commemorative postage stamp to honor the accomplishments of the National Federation of the Blind and the leadership and vision of its principal founder, Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.

RESOLUTION 86-19

WHEREAS, the responsibility of parenting affects the future of our society; and

WHEREAS, this responsibility requires access to information in order adequately to prepare oneself for this

important role; and

WHEREAS, parents constitute a large portion of the blind population; and

WHEREAS, the National Library Service (NLS) serves many special interest groups through the production of periodicals and other literature in Braille and recorded format; and

WHEREAS, NLS produces no periodicals and a relatively small amount of literature on parenting in a format useful to blind parents; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need for information on the subject of parenting, one regional library regularly records a periodical on parenting for distribution to its special interest readership; and

WHEREAS, some regional libraries regularly distribute this recorded periodical to their special interest readership while other regional libraries refuse to do so: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization request the National Library Service to produce and distribute at least one distributed periodical on parenting in recorded format; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLS implement a mechanism for the distribution through all regional libraries of the periodical on parenting currently being produced by one regional library.

RESOLUTION 86-20

WHEREAS, an increasing number of blind people are participating in the business world; and

WHEREAS, blind business people need to have access to the same information as sighted business people in order to make sound business decisions; and

WHEREAS, FORTUNE magazine publishes annually several lists including the "FORTUNE 500" list of top companies in the United States; and

WHEREAS, these lists are used by many businesses in their sales and marketing efforts; and

WHEREAS, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS) publishes FORTUNE magazine in Braille, but does not publish the aforementioned lists even though they are the most widely used products published by FORTUNE; and

WHEREAS, NLS states that interest in the aforementioned list is low even though FORTUNE readers have not seen any survey on the matter: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization request the National Library Service to publish annually the "FORTUNE 500" list in Braille; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request NLS to make Braille copies of these lists available to any blind person desires them through the regional library system.

RESOLUTION 86-21

WHEREAS, the National Easter Seal Society has instigated a media campaign intended to change negative and stereotypic attitudes toward the blind; and

WHEREAS, campaign materials include

inaccurate and demeaning portrayals of blind people suggesting that all blind people wear dark glasses, walk with crook-handled canes, and eat at tables with dogs; and

WHEREAS, Federationists have called these false, misleading and offensive portrayals to the attention of the Easter Seal Society; and

WHEREAS, the Communications Director of the Society has now stated in writing that the offensive publications will be revised at the time of reprinting; and

WHEREAS, immediate revision would prevent further false portrayals of blind persons; and

WHEREAS, consumer input can prevent further embarrassment to the National Easter Seals Society and the blind of America: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that we urge the National Easter Seal Society immediately to discontinue distribution of its current material and begin work on a new and improved campaign to further the cause of the blind in America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization pledge to work with the who National Easter Seal Society to develop materials which meet the stated objective of the Society and which are consistent with the positive philosophy of blindness espoused by the National Federation of the Blind.

RESOLUTION 86-22

WHEREAS, members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate have proposed H.R. 2911

and S. 1739 for the purpose of placing a royalty tax on the purchase of recording devices and blank tapes; and

WHEREAS, the royalty tax is being promoted by members of the entertainment industry to compensate the industry for alleged revenue losses arising from home taping which may infringe on copyrights; and

WHEREAS, the royalty tax would be applied across the board even though, in the case of the blind, most blank tapes and recording equipment are not used in a manner that infringes upon copyrights: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization oppose H.R. 2911 and S. 1739.

RESOLUTION 86-23

WHEREAS, Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits are an important and in many cases the sole source of income for blind people; and

WHEREAS, the law provides for an annual adjustment to be made in the amount of earnings that will be counted as substantial gainful activity in the case of each blind SSDI beneficiary; and

WHEREAS, by law, the substantial gainful activity test for the blind permits the same amount of earnings for the blind as the Social Security Retirement Program permits for people who retire at age 65; and

WHEREAS, annual notices sent by the Social Security Administration to blind SSDI beneficiaries announce the amount of earned income that will be exempt during the ensuing year for retirees but

the notices do not announce the revised substantial gainful activity amount for the blind, a fact which leads to confusion; and

WHEREAS, the notices in question further discourage blind beneficiaries from attempting work by conveying the impression that in general the disabled may not work and must report any earnings to the Social Security Office, immediately leading the reader of the notice to the conclusion that benefits cease because of the earnings; and

WHEREAS, this generalization is misleading to blind SSDI beneficiaries and does not accurately report the value of the work incentive that Congress intended to give to the blind through a higher substantial gainful activity: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization ask the Social Security Administration to revise the notices identified in this resolution to convey accurate and complete information about substantial gainful activity of the blind and the annual revisions in its amount.

RESOLUTION 86-25

WHEREAS, Recording for the Blind (RFB) records books on a large scale for blind students and professionals and generally does a good job but has certain problems—diagrams are not always described properly, some irrelevant descriptions are made, etc.; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no significant mechanism for RFB to receive valid and valuable "consumer input" from

blind users of RFB's services, particularly from the organized blind of America—the National Federation of the Blind (NFB); and

WHEREAS, part of the problem stems from the fact that RFB is accredited by the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NAC) and therefore tends to receive what input it does get from NAC and those agencies, organizations, and individuals identified with NAC: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization urge, once again, that Recording for the Blind drop its affiliation with the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped since this accreditation has nothing whatever to do with the quality of services now provided by RFB; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization call upon Recording for the Blind to work with the National Federation of the Blind to establish an ongoing formal relationship in order to bring about continued improvement in the quality of RFB's services to its blind users.

RESOLUTION 86-27

WHEREAS, the over 50,000 members of the National Federation of the Blind have demonstrated that the problems of blindness do not relate to blindness itself but rather to societal attitudes about blindness; and

WHEREAS, blind people reflect the culture and customs of society and

participate fully in it, with those blind persons choosing to do so becoming successful parents; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, states such as California, Arizona, Florida, Alabama, and Colorado have sought to remove children from blind parents in cases of custody or alleged abuse; and

WHEREAS, the standard of care required by the state for blind parents should be no different than the standard to which sighted parents are held regardless of the techniques chosen by the blind parent: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization affirm its conviction in the belief that blind parents do successfully and competently raise children; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization pledge its full support to assisting blind parents who have been subjected to discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization call upon its affiliates to have legislation enacted in the states using as a model legislation adopted in the State of California outlawing such taking of children.

RESOLUTION 86-28

WHEREAS, beginning in 1977, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) encouraged each certified air carrier to adopt procedures for the transportation of anyone who "may need the assistance of another person expeditiously to move to an exit in the event of an emergency"; and

WHEREAS, FAA's regulations (14 CFR

121.586) and its advisory circular (120-32) mislead the airlines into adopting procedures that are not safety related, and, even worse, the FAA dupes the airlines into adopting procedures that are based on false notions about blindness, thereby leading to a pattern of discriminatory treatment; and

WHEREAS, by law, the FAA can only regulate and oversee matters of safety; and

WHEREAS, with the approval of the FAA, the airlines routinely overstep this limited safety jurisdiction by including in their procedures non-safety rules such as excluding the blind from exit row seating, requiring the blind to preboard and to deplane last of all, and requiring that the blind passenger be seated on blankets or be seated next to persons of the same sex, all of which are unnecessary, humiliating, and discriminatory and none of which are safety-related; and

WHEREAS, neither the FAA nor the airlines will admit responsibility for including such demeaning and discriminatory requirements in airline procedures, each blaming the other and attempting to wash its hands of guilt; and

WHEREAS, in the widespread and growing pattern of incidents involving confrontations with blind persons provoked by the airlines, airline personnel cloak their oppressive acts and demands with the sanctity of Federal regulations, publicly branding blind people as federal law violators and depriving blind people of their liberty and dignity through wrongful public arrest when they know and the blind know that no federal laws have been violated: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization demand that the FAA confine itself to safety by issuing a policy to the airlines making it clear that the FAA will accept no procedures under section 121.586 that contain non-safety related provisions and requiring that every section of each such procedure include written justification of its need as to safety based on available and objective evidence.

RESOLUTION 86-29

WHEREAS, the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) is holding a conference on accessibility of mass transit for the blind which will take place on January 11 and 12, 1987, in Washington, DC, and which is being held in cooperation with the American Public Transit Association (APTA) and the Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA); and

WHEREAS, the AFB perpetrates a gross disservice on the blind it purports to serve by funding and promoting research which gives credence to and reinforces the age-old misconceptions about blindness; and

WHEREAS, research regarding use of mass transit by the blind has reached such conclusions as escalators and revolving exit gates are dangerous for blind persons, pillars should be round and padded, platform edges should have a different texture, train doors should have beepers, and trains should have safety barriers between cars and devices to bridge the gap between cars and platforms; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned research

engenders a misguided notion about blindness among transit operators and diverts attention from real issues such as poor and inadequate training by agencies for the blind, and poor attitudes and unrealistic expectations about blindness and the blind; and

WHEREAS, despite repeated resolutions of the National Federation of the Blind calling upon APTA and UMTA to work with the blind on issues related to blindness, APTA and UMTA have instead agreed to co-sponsor a transit conference with the American Foundation for the Blind: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization condemn and deplore the actions of the American Public Transit Association and the Urban Mass Transit Administration for participating with the American Foundation for the Blind in a conference on accessibility of mass transit to the blind; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization again call upon APTA and UMTA to work with the organized blind movement—the National Federation of the Blind.

RESOLUTION 86-30

WHEREAS, for the past several years, the National Federation of the Blind has vigorously urged the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) to certify blind persons as travel instructors; and

WHEREAS, blind persons frequently have demonstrated that they are just as

capable as sighted persons in teaching other blind persons travel techniques including those techniques associated with training dog guides and dog guide users; and

WHEREAS, despite the aforementioned demonstrated capabilities by blind persons, dog guide schools flatly refuse to employ blind individuals as trainers and instructors: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, that this organization vigorously urge all dog guide schools to hire blind persons as trainers and instructors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of the Blind offer its assistance to dog guide schools in locating blind persons who desire positions as dog guide trainers and instructors.

RESOLUTION 86-101

WHEREAS, there is name identification and interlinking organizational structure at every level and in every geographic area of the National Federation of the Blind; and

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind has real importance in the lives of its members; and

WHEREAS, whatever happens at any level of the organization (whether local, state, or national) affects the entire movement and all of its component parts and members; and

WHEREAS, the National Office of the Federation has acquired experience and expertise in matters concerning fund-raising and its legal ramifications; and

WHEREAS, by constitution and charter the National Office of the Federation has responsibility for coordinating the work of local chapters and state affiliates to the end that the movement may function harmoniously with the least possible risk and exposure: Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this fourth day of July, 1986, in Kansas City, Missouri, that no local chapter or state affiliate may enter into any agreement concerning fund-raising with any person, group of persons, corporation, or other entity without receiving prior written approval from the President or Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no local chapter or state affiliate may continue any such fundraising agreement if that agreement has been disapproved in writing or approval for its continuation has been withdrawn in writing by the President or Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind.

RESOLUTION 86-1001

WHEREAS, Kenneth Jernigan has (with the exception of one year) served as

President of the National Federation of the Blind since 1968 and has (except for a brief period) been a member of the Board of Directors since 1952; and

WHEREAS, during that time he has devoted his life and energies to the advancement of the cause of the organized blind movement and has accumulated knowledge which is invaluable to the guidance, progress, and well-being of the organized blind movement; Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this second day of July, 1986, in Kansas City, Missouri, that Kenneth Jernigan be and hereby is named Advisor to the President, Officers, and Board of Directors of the National Federation of the Blind and shall (as his circumstances permit) attend and participate in meetings of the Officers, Board of Directors, and subcommittees of the Officers and/or Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kenneth Jernigan shall have use of and access to all books, records, materials, and other items of the National Federation of the Blind; and the National Federation of the Blind shall provide Kenneth Jernigan with a suitable office for his use and such secretarial and/or other assistance as he may need.

RECIPES

"NO PEEP" CHICKEN CASSEROLE

by Pat Eschbach

(Note: Pat Eschbach needs no introduction to Federationists. She is the wife of National Board Member Robert Eschbach. She is also the extremely capable manager of our food service operation at national conventions.)

4 tablespoons butter
 1 cup uncooked rice
 1 can (10 1/2 oz.) cream of mushroom soup
 1 can (10 1/2 oz.) cream of celery soup
 3/4 can undiluted evaporated milk
 2 1/2 to 3 pounds frying chicken, cut into serving pieces (I like thighs or breasts best.)

Melt butter; add rice, soups, and milk. Spoon into a 7 x 11" deep baking dish (or a 3-quart casserole) with cover. Arrange chicken on top. Cover tightly or cover with foil. Bake at 300 degrees for 2 1/2 hours. DO NOT UNCOVER until ready to serve.

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

by Ramona Walhof

(Ramona Walhof is one of the leaders of the National Federation of the Blind of Idaho. More than that, she is one of the moving forces in the national body of the Federation.)

One-gallon ice cream freezer (electric or hand crank)
 Blender
 2 cups sugar
 4 eggs
 2 quarts "Half and Half"
 1 tablespoon vanilla (pure vanilla is better than vanilla extract)
 Grated or chunked ice
 Rock salt

Mix together sugar and eggs with blender and pour into freezer can. Add 2 quarts "Half and Half" and 1 tablespoon vanilla. You will need plenty of grated or chunked ice and rock salt. The freezer can should be between 2/3 and 3/4 full before freezing. The dasher will add air while freezing so the can will be completely full when the ice cream is frozen. If you wish to keep the ice cream in your regular freezer, do not allow it to thaw much,

because it will lose its air, become very difficult to dip, and crystalize. Freezing your own ice cream is definitely worth the mess and trouble. Enjoy it!

Variations

Chocolate: Substitute one 12-ounce can chocolate syrup for 1 cup sugar

Strawberry: Reduce "Half and Half" by 1 pint and add two 12-ounce packages of frozen strawberries. Puree strawberries in blender before adding them to ice cream mixture before freezing.

Other fruit: Other kinds of fresh or frozen fruit may be used in a way similar to that in which you use strawberries. The amount of fruit and "Half and Half" may vary.

BRAN MUFFINS

by Ramona Walhof

3 cups Miller's Bran
3 cups whole wheat flour
3 cups white flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 tablespoon baking soda
2 teaspoons salt
4 whole eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
1 cup honey
3 cups milk
4 muffin tins (greased)

Mix dry ingredients and make a well. Separately blend eggs, oil, honey, and milk. Mix with dry ingredients. Do not over-mix. Fill greased muffin tins 2/3

to 3/4 full. Bake 20 minutes at 400 degrees.

Makes about 40 muffins. If you don't need that many at one time, freeze some and reheat one or two for breakfast in a toaster oven. (Cut muffin in half and spread with butter or margarine before heating in toaster oven.)

These muffins are excellent with raisins or currants if you wish.

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

by Patricia Maurer

(Here are two recipes from the wife of the newly elected President of the National Federation of the Blind.)

4 one-pound cans sweet potatoes
2 tablespoons table cream
2 teaspoons nutmeg
1 1/2 cups raisins
1/2 cup butter
3/4 cup brown sugar
2 cups marshmallows

Mash potatoes and add cream, nutmeg and raisins. Pour into large, greased casserole dish. Top with butter, brown sugar, and marshmallows. Bake 40 minutes in 350-degree oven.

PUMPKIN COOKIES

by Patricia Maurer

1/2 cup oil
1 1/2 cup sugar
1 egg

1 cup pumpkin
 2 1/2 cups flour
 1 teaspoon soda
 1 teaspoon baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon nutmeg
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon allspice
 1 package chocolate chips
 1/2 cup raisins (optional)
 1 cup nuts (optional)

Cream together oil, sugar and eggs. Sift flour and all dry ingredients. Add flour mixture alternately with pumpkin to cream mixture. Add chocolate chips (raisins and nuts if desired). Put on a lightly greased cookie sheet by teaspoons. Bake 10 to 15 minutes at 350 degrees.

NANTUCKET CRANBERRY PIE

by Beverly A. Gonzales

(Here is a recipe submitted by the First Vice President of the National Federation of the Blind, Diane McGeorge.)

2 cups fresh cranberries
 1/3 cup granulated white sugar
 1/2 cup (2 ounces) chopped pecans or walnuts
 1/3 cup currants or 1/2 cup raisins, plumped in hot water for ten minutes
 6 ounces (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted
 1 cup all purpose flour
 3/4 cup dark brown sugar, firmly packed
 2 eggs, lightly beaten
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 Pinch of salt
 Garnish (sour cream, whipped cream, or vanilla ice cream)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees; generously grease a 10-inch deep-dish pie plate. In a large bowl combine the cranberries, white sugar, nuts, and currants or raisins. Stir to combine. In a separate mixing bowl combine the remaining ingredients, stirring until smooth. Gently fold the cranberry mixture into the butter mixture until well blended. Pour into the prepared pie plate. Place the pie plate on a cookie sheet and bake for 45 to 50 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to cool slightly and serve warm garnished with sour cream, whipped cream, or vanilla ice cream.

MONITOR MINIATURES* * * * * (305) 286-8366."****Ski For Light:**

We have been asked to carry the following announcement:

"The 1987 Ski for Light Program will be held in Traverse City, Michigan, February 1-8. The cost for the week (double occupancy) is \$375.00. Any blind person interested in outdoor sports (particularly, skiing) is invited to apply. Instruction in skiing will be given. Applications must be received no later than November 1, 1986. For further information, contact: Ms. Judy Dixon, 1104 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201, phone: (703) 276-9191."

****Lion Of the Year:**

We have learned that New York Federationist Brad Greenspan recently received the LION OF THE YEAR award from the Lion's Club of Central Islip, New York.

****Jobs Available:**

Gerald Mains (Director of Triformation Braille Service, Inc.) has asked that we run the following announcement:

"HELP WANTED: Triformation Braille Service, Inc., in Stuart, Florida, is seeking NLS-certified proofreaders. Triformation Braille Service, Inc. is also seeking an individual to serve as supervisor of its Proofreading Department. Must have extensive experience in proofreading and knowledge of Braille Codes, as well as supervisory ability. Computer experience helpful. Please send resume of knowledge and/or experience to TBS, Inc., 3142 S.E. Jay Street, Stuart, Florida 33497, or call for information

****Proposed Braille Book Club:**

We have been asked to run the following announcement:

"Are you a Braille reader who would be interested in an innovative book club? We are proposing the production of novels (i.e. Top Ten Best Sellers). The make-up of this club would be an annual membership fee, a per book charge with three to five new selections each month. Sound interesting? Let me know by sending a postcard or letter (typed or Brailled) with your name, address, and age to: Jenni Bailey, Box 474, Sparks, Nevada 89432."

****A Word to the Wise:**

More and more individuals and groups are writing to ask that we include kinds of announcements in the Monitor. Those who study the format of the "Monitor Miniatures" column and send the material already prepared so that we can carry it without editing are more likely to get it included than those who don't. In addition, it helps if the material is worthwhile, interesting, or at least has something to say. Literacy is also a plus.

****Braille Greeting Cards:**

We have been asked to carry the following announcement:

"Feel and Read, See and Read. Christmas Greeting Cards...combination print and Braille: 14 for \$3.50 and/or 8 for \$2.50. Add \$.70 extra per set for name in print. Name Brailled free, by request only. Everyday Greeting Cards...combination print and Braille: (birthday, get well, sympathy, all occasion.) With or without scripture.

14 for \$3.50 and/or 8 for \$2.50. If name is desired in print, priced as above. Envelopes...100 #10 at \$2.25, 100 6 1/2 x 9 1/2 at \$4.00, same size with metal clips \$6.00. Postage paid. Please include full amount of payment with your order and send to: Harry A. Fribush, 400 Hudson Avenue, Apt. 104, Albany, New York 12203."

****Dies:**

On August 23, 1986, Jane Doty of Nebraska died. She was a woman of quiet strength. She joined the Lincoln Chapter shortly after becoming blind because of the complications of diabetes. She served as Secretary of the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska for two years and then worked quietly and without fanfare to help her husband, Gary, while he was serving as President of the Lincoln Chapter. She was a source of joy to all who knew her.

****Hawaii Convention:**

The following report is submitted by Dr. Floyd Matson, a professor at the University of Hawaii and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Hawaii affiliate:

"Federationists and friends from four Hawaiian islands—Maui, Kauai, Hawaii, and Oahu—assembled at Waikiki's Princess Kaiulani Hotel on June 7 for the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind of Hawaii. Highlights of the all-day meeting included a spirited dialogue between Marc Maurer, our national representative, and an official of the state agency overseeing sheltered workshops (Melvin Kuwamoto); speeches by Hawaii Lieutenant Governor John Waihee, State Senator Neil Abercrombie, Honolulu City Council Chairwoman Marilyn Bornhorst, and Deputy

City Managing Director Jeremy Harris, along with other public agency spokesmen. The keynote address was delivered by Marc Maurer, who also presented a comprehensive progress report on Federation activities nationally. Officers elected were: Larry Krejci, President; Ruby Whidden, Vice President; Pat Chong, Second Vice President, and Floyd Matson, Secretary-Treasurer. Larry Krejci addressed the convention on the issue of Hawaii's severe animal quarantine law as it affects blind travelers, and Bill Perry spoke compellingly of his experience as a blind youth first discovering and then living the spirit of Federationism."

****VERSATEXT:**

We have been asked to carry the following announcement:

"For blind people who write—students, secretaries, administrators, authors—Braille is still the best system, for efficiency and accuracy. VERSATEXT, a powerful Grade II Braille-to-print word processing program, allows you to write, edit, and spellcheck reports, briefs, memoranda, and correspondence, with automatic translation, page formatting, and printing, of quality comparable to documents produced by sighted persons. The program can be used with any of the VersaBraille Systems connected to either a CP/M or IBM PC-type computer. "VERSATEXT options include: Spellchecker, batch-mailing utility, rapid access name and number directory, and expanded forms writer; an extensive file management system is currently being developed for the VERSATEXT SECRETARY package. For information, contact AMPRO COMPUTERS INC., P.O. Box 390427, Mountain View, California

94039, Telephone (415) 962-0230; or
VERSATEXT SYSTEMS INC., P.O. Box 451,
Station A, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1N
8V5, Telephone (613) 592-3367."

****Bible Alliance:**

We have been asked to carry the following announcement:

"Bible Alliance, Inc. would like to be included in all mailing lists with reference to state Federation conventions to be held in 1986-87. We provide the Bible on cassette completely FREE OF CHARGE to the blind and visually impaired, and would like to make our free services available to all Federationists. Thank you for your help. Bible Alliance, Inc., P.O. Box 1549, Bradenton, Florida 33506."

****Dies:**

Joyce Miller of St. Joseph, Missouri, died July 23, 1986, from complications related to diabetes. She served as Vice President of the St. Joseph Chapter and was a Charter Member of the Diabetic Division. Joyce joined the Federation in 1977 and was a force for unity and strength. When the Missouri affiliate was under attack by officials of the state agency, Joyce stood firm and would not be intimidated.

****The Classes of Blindness:**

The following item appears on the 1986 pre-registration form of the American Council of the Blind:

"Degree of visual impairment (check one):

- Totally blind (no useful vision)
- Travel vision (with some assistance)
- Travel vision (with no assistance)
- Sighted (little or no visual

impairment."

****LOC-TOK-30:**

In the August/September issue of the Monitor we printed a miniature concerning the LOC-TOK 30. We now need to update and amend what we printed. Here is a news release from Aids Unlimited, Inc.:

"Now you can listen to a Library of Congress cassette book on a top-quality AM/FM/FM Stereo/Short Wave Radio/Cassette Player/Recorder. And, what's more, you can read for 6 hours and turn the cassette over only once. Plugged in or operated on batteries, it's a major breakthrough in cassette reading and recording and in radio enjoyment. This all-in-one unit, the LOC-TOK 30, is available for shipment now. Aids Unlimited has been appointed as the exclusive world-wide distributor of the new LOC-TOK 30 Cassette Recorder/Player with AM/FM/FM Stereo/Short Wave Radio.

"With the LOC-TOK 30, you can record and play on all 4 tracks at regular speed or the Library of Congress half-speed. With the "Auto-Reverse" feature, you can read tracks 1 and 2 for 3 hours without stopping. Then, flip the cassette over and read tracks 3 and 4 for 3 more hours without stopping.

"The radio portion of the LOC-TOK 30 picks up AM, FM, FM Stereo plus Short Wave 1 and Short Wave 2.

"The unit has 2 detachable speakers measuring 4-1/2" each. The 5-element graphic equalizer enables you to select the combination of low, middle, and high tones you desire.

"For further information concerning the LOC-TOK 30, or to obtain the Aids Unlimited Fall 1986 catalog listing more

than 260 products, contact Aids Unlimited, Inc., 1101 North Calvert Street, Suite 405, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, phone (301) 659-0232."

****New Baby:**

David and Marsha Anderson of Indiana announce the arrival of their daughter Bethany Michelle. She was born at 2:10 a.m. July 17, 1986, and she weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces and was 21 inches long. Marsha is the former Marsha Crickmore. Mother, father, and daughter are all doing well.

****Health Spa Ordered to Pay:**

Richard Fox sends us the following item from the New York Daily News, June 20, 1986:

"A blind martial arts expert won a \$2,500 judgment against a Jack LaLanne health spa yesterday because the fitness club refused to let his guide dog into its gym. The City Human Rights Commission ordered Jack LaLanne Fitness Centers Inc. to compensate Joseph Tartaglia, 53, for the 'mental anguish and humiliation' he suffered at being refused membership in a LaLanne club in 1983. The commission also told LaLanne to offer Tartaglia membership in any LaLanne center he chooses and to 'cease discriminatory practices against individuals who use guide dogs.' Tartaglia, of W. 23rd Street, filed a complaint against LaLanne after the manager of the club's former Park Avenue center refused to sell him a membership because of the guide dog. Tartaglia, who became blind after an illness in 1973, refused an offer to have a sighted friend accompany him to his fitness training programs—free of charge. The commission said LaLanne's offer was not

a real alternative because a guide dog is 'an extension of the blind person' and not merely a companion. Tartaglia, who has a black belt in judo and kendo, said he was thrilled with the ruling."

****The Nature of Meanness and the Soul of Pettiness:**

At the 1986 convention of the National Federation of the Blind Dr. Abraham Nemeth, inventor of the Nemeth Mathematical Code, came to see President Jernigan to discuss a problem. Dr. Nemeth said that the Braille Authority of North America was attempting to remove his name (if one can believe it) from the mathematical code which he invented. To substantiate this incredible statement he produced a copy of the Spring 1986 Bulletin of the National Braille Association. Paragraph five of an article entitled "Braille Authority of North America: 1985 Annual Meeting" reads: "The Mathematics Technical Committee was directed to complete the updating of Ruth Craig's "Learning the Nemeth Code: A Manual for Teachers" and to rename the document "Learning the Mathematics Code: A Manual for Teachers and Students." Dr. Nemeth told President Jernigan that he had tried without success to persuade the Braille Authority of North America not to attempt to divorce his name from his code. President Jernigan assured Dr. Nemeth that the Federation would do all within its power to support his position. After all, should we try to remove the name of Louie Braille from the Literary Code which he invented?

****Farm Bureau County Membership Chairman:**

The June 7, 1986, Minnesota Farm

Bureau Farmers Voice carries an article about John Johnson, long-time Federationist. The article reads in part:

"John Johnson of Aitkin County is not about to let the handicap of being totally blind slow him down. He has been named 1986 membership chairman for Aitkin County. Through his efforts, Aitkin County had a successful membership drive this year, exceeding its new member goal and achieving growth. Special certificates were awarded to the counties that achieved quota prior to the June conference in St. Cloud. Johnson attended the conference and went up on stage to accept the award which was presented by American Farm Bureau President Dean Kleckner."

****Dies:**

On August 17, 1986, Virginia Ornduff (one of the leaders of the Baltimore Chapter) died. She was particularly active in recruiting older blind persons and giving them encouragement and assistance. Her loss will be deeply felt.

****Second Cookbook:**

April Enderton, 711 Gray, Des Moines, Iowa 50315, is a member of the Des Moines Chapter. She writes as follows: "I am happy to announce that my second cookbook is now available for purchase entitled The Eaters Digest, it is a 3-volume Braille collection of some of my all time favorite recipes. It is full of recipes from simple snacks to gourmet meals, and much between. It is available for \$25.00. When placing orders, please include full name, address, and zip code. Cash, check, or

money order will be accepted. I am also still taking orders for my first cookbook, a 2-volume Braille set entitled Food for Thought. This book includes recipes for beverages, breads, casseroles, and desserts. The price is \$20.00."

****And Now There Are Nine:**

Ehab and Samaiyah Yamini announce the birth of their daughter, Sajda Ifraj, July 18, 1986, at 6:52 a.m. Sajda weighed 8 pounds 11 ounces and was 21 1/2 inches long. Ehab was recently elected President of the National Federation of the Blind of Georgia. He is a massage therapist at the Downtown Athletic Club in Atlanta. Before the arrival of Sajda Ifraj, Ehab had eight children—and now there are nine.

****Innovative Project:**

Kent Kolaga reports that the Gateway Chapter (St. Louis) of the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri has begun the practice of teaching Braille classes prior to its monthly meetings. Not only can this provide a useful service, it can also stimulate interest and attendance. At the first such class (April 19, 1986) three parents were present. Notices have been sent to agencies and others throughout the community, with the hope that blind persons as well as parents will be encouraged to come.

****Aids For Partially Sighted:**

We have been asked to carry the following announcement:

The International Survey of Aids for the Partially Sighted offers information on a wide variety of available products from all over the world.

"The contents include information on reading aids, magnification devices, and medical aids, as well as sections on money handling, typing, and handwriting aids. The last chapter concerns related publications.

"Released in large print only, the book costs \$15.00 (air mail) or \$12.00 (free matter.) Prepaid orders should be sent to: National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115."

****Names In The News:**

In the July 23, 1986, Boone News-Republican of Iowa, President and Mrs. Maurer and Ronald Greene were prominently featured in the "Names in the News" section. The caption accompanying the picture said in part: "Ronald Greene of Boone, right, was among the 58 Iowa delegates who attended the recent convention of the National Federation of the Blind. Marc Maurer, center, was elected President of the organization. He is a former Boone resident. His wife, Patricia, is at left. Greene is Secretary of the Federation's Iowa Chapter, and President of the Central Iowa Chapter. He presented Maurer a letter and key to the City of Boone from Mayor Elmer Ohlmann, a cap and train whistle from the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad, and several items from the Mamie Eisenhower Birthplace."

****Dies:**

A letter from Whitney Johnson, one of the leaders of the National Federation of the Blind of Idaho, says:

"I am writing to report the death of a very special Federationist. Bertha Ripplinger recently died in Rigby, Idaho, at the age of 80. Miss Ripplinger was blind throughout her

life, but taught kindergarten for 50 years in Rigby and in Buhl, Idaho. She graduated from 80 to 125 kindergarteners each year. Sometimes she taught two classes a day and three sessions a year. We believe she touched the lives of 4,000 children and nearly twice that many parents. She awarded pencils when children could count to 50 and tablets when they could count to 100. She is remembered by thousands of persons in eastern Idaho for her directness, love of people, and energy. Blindness never stopped her.

Bertha Ripplinger was a long time member of the National Federation of the Blind of Idaho and served for some years as President of the Eastern Chapter.

****Open Letter From Kenneth Jernigan:**

Bob and Yolanda Pherigo have been special people to me. Among other things they have been responsible for helping bring cherries to me at national conventions. In 1985 they went to the orchards outside of Nampa, Idaho, picked the cherries, cared for them on the plane, and brought them to the presidential suite at convention. They asked for no recognition or even thanks. They simply gave with generous hearts and said nothing about it.

This year they were planning a repeat performance. I doubt that they knew that I was aware of it. Then, tragedy struck. The week before the national convention Bob was standing on a quiet street in Nampa talking with friends when a car driven by a drunk driver veered out of control and struck him. He was dragged for more than a block and died almost immediately. The tragedy was made even worse by the fact that Bob had a four-year old daughter, Monica.

Of course, Yolanda was unable to come to the convention.

Bob Pherigo exemplified (and Yolanda still exemplifies) the spirit of Federationism in action—generosity toward others, a wish to serve, a spirit of self-reliance, loyalty in time of crisis, and a quiet strength. Despite her loss, Yolanda was present at the July meeting of the Snake River Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Idaho. Bob will be greatly missed. Our hearts go out to Yolanda in her grief. Of such as these is the Federation made.

****Books On Knitting And Crocheting:**

We have been asked to carry the following announcement:

"If you like to knit or crochet, you'll enjoy two handicraft books from National Braille Press. The two books, Handicrafts 1983 and Handicrafts 1984, are a collection of patterns from Our Special Magazine.

"There's something for everyone—men, women, and children—including patterns for sweaters, cardigans, vests, slippers, mittens, Christmas gifts, and more.

"Handicrafts 1983 is \$3.00 and Handicrafts 1984 is \$2.00. Mail a check to National Braille Press, 88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115. Braille only."

****Braille Dictionary Available:**

We have been asked to carry the following announcement:

"For Sale: A 4-volume desk pocket dictionary—excellent condition—\$50.00. Contact Jeanne Calusine, 156 Wintonbury Avenue, Apartment D-102, Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002, (203) 242-0648."

****Jewish Braille Institute Scholarships:**

The Jewish Braille Institute of America announces new scholarships. Blind students preparing for careers as rabbis, cantors, or professional workers in Jewish communal service may be eligible for scholarship assistance from the Jewish Braille Institute of America, Inc. The scholarships were established through a bequest from Miss Sophie Lazaroff and more information about them can be obtained from Dr. Gerald M. Kass, Executive Vice President, Jewish Braille Institute of America, Inc., 110 East 30th Street, New York, New York 10016.

****New Chapter:**

Hazel Staley, one of the leaders of the North Carolina affiliate, writes as follows:

"We have a new chapter. It is the National Federation of the Blind of Columbus County, North Carolina, organized July 10. Its officers are Regina Evans, President; Grover Duncan, Vice President; John Nickolaus, Secretary; and Griffin Johnson, Treasurer. This is an area that has needed organizing for some time and we welcome them into our family."

****Report from Atlanta:**

Wayne High, President of the Atlanta Chapter, writes:

"Our officers for the year 1986-87 are: Wayne High, President; Raj Mehta, First Vice President; Gladys Taylor, Second Vice President; Demetra McCormick, Secretary; and Vesta Oliver, Treasurer (she was married February 14, 1986.) On May 16 and 17 of this year, we hosted the state convention. Our members worked very hard to make it a successful one. Our chapter has grown,

and is constantly growing."

****Write-Lite:**

We have been asked to carry the following announcement:

"American Thermoform Corporation in its 25th year of service to the visually impaired has developed Write-Lite, a lightweight, portable "writing tablet" for the low vision student.

"The Write-Lite is ideal for use when conventional black boards are not feasible. Fluorescent crayons, available in a variety of colors give black light effect for high contrast.

"The 13 x 18 x 1 5/8 metal framed lucite writing surface requires eight "C" cell batteries. It is equipped with a built-in easel for easy set-up and viewing, and weighs less than five pounds. The Write-Lite is priced at \$89.50 excluding batteries. An optional heavy duty carrying bag is also available at \$12.00. Additional information may be obtained by contacting ATC, 2311 Travers Avenue, Commerce, CA 90040 (213) 723-9021."

****Audio Players:**

David Swerdlow, 621 West End Avenue, New York, New York 10024, has asked that we carry the following announcement:

"Attention! Blind and partially sighted men and women living in the New York area! Interested in popular music? Drama? Then why not join the Elbee Audio Players, an independent troupe of blind and sighted amateur players, now going into its twenty-fifth season... They use an audio, radio style format exclusively...This season Elbee will present an original audio version of "The Mikado in Audio" by Gilbert and Sullivan; also "An Evening with the Gershwins and Stephen Sondheim." In drama: Scenes from plays by Lorraine Hansberry, John vanDruten, W. S. Maugham, and others. Should know Braille; no memorizing of lines necessary." Write to David Swerdlow, or call him at (212) 874-5704.
